

# THE ATHENÆUM

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SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1876.

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**BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE.** 21, Albemarle-street, W.—The NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at GLASGOW, commencing on WEDNESDAY, September 6.

President—Designate.

Prof. T. ANDREWS, M.D. LL.D. F.R.S. Hon. F.R.S.E.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS OF MEMOIRS.—Authors are reminded that, under an arrangement dating from 1871, the acceptance of Memoirs, and the days on which they are to be read, are now, as far as possible, determined by Organizing Committees for the several Sections before the beginning of the Meeting. It has therefore become necessary, in order to give an opportunity to the Committees of doing justice to the several Communications, that each Author should prepare an Abstract of his Memoir, of a length suitable for insertion in the published Transactions of the Association, and that he should send it, together with the original Memoir, by book-post, on or before August 16, addressed thus:—"General Secretaries, British Association, 21, Albemarle-street, London, W. For Section . . . . . If it should be inconvenient to the Author that his Paper should be read on any particular day, he is requested to send information thereof to the Secretaries in a separate note.

G. GRIFFITH, M.A.,  
Assistant General Secretary, Harrow.

HOWARD MEDAL FOR 1876.

**STATISTICAL SOCIETY, 1st of July, 1876.**—

The Council of the Society hereby acknowledge the receipt of ESSAYS IN COMPETITION for the HOWARD MEDAL of 1876, under the following mottoes:—"Spem sepius in Fractis."—"We cannot hold Mortality's strong hand."—"Sanitas Sanitatum."—"Ahi contentus sorte tua."—"The Language of Figures and Tables."—"Omnia Sanitas." The title of the Essay for the Howard Medal of 1877 (Bronze, with 50s. added) may be obtained on application to the Assistant-Secretary of the Statistical Society (King's College entrance, Strand, W.C., London).

**BIRMINGHAM TRIENNIAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL.**

IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE

**BIRMINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.**

THIRTY-SECOND CELEBRATION.

ON

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29th.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30th.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st.

FRIDAY, September 1st.

President.

The Most Honourable the MARQUIS of HERTFORD.

Outline of the Performances.

TUESDAY MORNING, August 29th.—"Elijah." TUESDAY EVENING—A New Cantata, by F. H. Cowen, entitled "The Corsair" (first time of performance); and a Miscellaneous Selection. WEDNESDAY MORNING, August 30th.—A New Oratorio, "The Resurrection," composed expressly for this Festival by Professor Macfarren; "Ama Virgo" Hummel; "Hear my Prayer," Mendelssohn. WEDNESDAY EVENING.—Sacred Cantata, "Zion," by Gade, composed expressly for this Festival; a Miscellaneous Selection, including a Symphony.

THURSDAY MORNING, August 31st.—"Messiah." THURSDAY EVENING.—Cantata, "The Crusaders," by Gade; and a Miscellaneous Selection, comprising Overture to "William Tell," &c. FRIDAY MORNING, September 1st.—"The Last Judgment," Spohr; "The Holy Supper," Wagner (first time of performance in England); Beethoven's Mass, No. 1 (in D). FRIDAY EVENING.—"St. Paul."

Programmes of the performances will be forwarded by post on application to the undersigned, at the Office of the Festival Committee, 15, Ann-street, Birmingham, on and after the 5th instant.

By order,

HOWARD S. SMITH,  
Secretary to the Festival Committee.

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Foots: MONDAY, July 10; THURSDAY, July 13—SPENSER. MONDAY, July 17—Sir PHILIP SIDNEY. THURSDAY, July 20—DUNNE, and others. MONDAY, July 24; THURSDAY, July 27—MILTON.

Tickets for the Course, 1s. 10s. for a Single Lecture, 6s.; may be had at 24, Hyde Park-gardens, or the office of the Lecture, or on application, by letter, to Mrs. GEORGE MAC DONALD, The Retreat, Hammer-smith.

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**THE LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.**

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An EXAMINATION will be held on SEPTEMBER 25th for TWO SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS, value 600 and 400 respectively. The Subjects will be the same as for the Preliminary Scientific M.B. Examination at the London University (see University Calendar).

Also on SEPTEMBER 25th, for TWO BUXTON SCHOLARSHIPS, value 300 and 200 respectively, in the subjects of the Preliminary Examination, as regulated by the General Council of Medical Education and Registration.

Intending Candidates must send in their names not later than September 20th. Particulars may be ascertained on application to the Secretary, at the Medical College, Turner-street, Mile End, E.

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*The Comedy of the Noctes Ambrosianæ.* By Christopher North. Selected and Arranged by John Skelton, Advocate. (Blackwood & Sons.)

Is it really that the great squeezing of books has at last begun? Here, at least, is the 'Noctes Ambrosianæ' squeezed into one volume.

Long ago we came upon an anecdote in Castellan, the substance of which, as far as we remember, is this. The library of the Indian kings was composed of so many volumes that a thousand camels were necessary to remove it. But once on a time a certain prince who loved reading much and other pleasures more, called a Brahmin to him, and said, "Books are good, O Brahmin, even as women are good, yet surely, of both these goods a prince may have too many; and then, O Brahmin, which of these two vexations is sorest to princely flesh it were hard to say; but as to the books, O Brahmin, squeeze 'em!" The Brahmin understanding well what the order to "squeeze 'em" meant (for he was a bookman himself, and knew that, as there goes much water and little flavour to the making of a very big pumpkin, so there goes much words and few thoughts to the making of a very big book), set to work, aided by many scribes,—striking out all the idle words from every book in the library; and when the essence of them had been extracted it was found that ten camels could carry that library without ruffling a hair. And therefore the Brahmin was appointed "Grand Squeezer" of the realm. Ages after this, another prince, who loved reading much and other pleasures a good deal more, called the Grand Squeezer of his time and said, "Thy duties are neglected, O Grand Squeezer! Thy life depends upon the measure of thy squeezing." Thereupon the Grand Squeezer in fear and trembling, set to work and squeezed, and squeezed till the whole library became at last a load that a foal would have laughed at, for it consisted of but one book, a tiny volume, containing four maxims. Yet the wisdom in the last library was the wisdom in the first.

The appearance of Mr. Skelton's condensation of the 'Noctes Ambrosianæ' reminds us of

this story, and of a certain solemn warning we always find it our duty to administer to those who show a propensity towards the baneful coxcombery of authorship—the warning that the literature of our country is already in a fair way of dying for the want of a Grand Squeezer, and that unless such a functionary is appointed within the next ten years, it will be smothered by itself. Yet our Government will keep granting pension after pension to those whom the Duke of Wellington used to call "the writing fellows" for adding to the camels' burden, instead of distributing the same amount among an army of diligent and well-selected squeezers. We say an army of squeezers, for it is not merely that almost every man, woman, and child among us who can write, prints, while nobody reads, and, to judge from the "spelling bees," nobody even spells, but that the fecundity of man as a "writing animal" is on the increase, and each one requires a squeezer to himself. This is the alarming thing. Where are we to find so many squeezers? Nay, in many cases, there needs a separate sub-squeezer for the writer's every book. Take, for instance, the case of the Carlyle-squeezer—what more could be expected from him in a lifetime than that he should squeeze 'Frederick the Great'—that enormous rank and pungent "haggis" from which, properly squeezed, such an ocean would flow of "oniony liquid" that compared with it the famous "haggis-deluge" of the 'Noctes,' which nearly drowned in gravy "Christopher," "the Shepherd," and "Tickler," in Ambrose's parlour, would be, both for quantity and flavour, but "a beaker full of the sweet South"? Yet what would be the squeezing of Mr. Carlyle; what would be the squeezing of De Quincey, or of Landor, or of Southey, to the squeezing of the tremendous Prof. Wilson—the mighty Christopher, who for about thirty years literally talked in type upon every matter of which he had any knowledge, and upon every matter of which he had none; whose "words, words, words" are, indeed, as Hallam with unconscious irony says, "as the rush of mighty waters"?

What would be left after the squeezing of him, it would be hard to guess; for, says the Chinese proverb, "if what is said be not to the purpose, a single word is already too much."

Mr. Skelton should have borne this maxim in mind, in his manipulations upon the 'Noctes Ambrosianæ.' He loves the memory of the fine old Scotchman, and has squeezed this enormous pumpkin with fingers that are too timid of grip. In squeezing Prof. Wilson, you cannot overdo it. There are certain parts we should have especially liked squeezed away; and among these—will Mr. Skelton pardon us?—are the "amazingly humorous" ones, such as the "opening of the haggis," which, Mr. Skelton tells us, "manifests the humour of conception as well as the humour of character, in a measure that has seldom been surpassed by the greatest masters"; "the amazing humour" of which consists in the Shepherd sticking his supper knife into a "haggis" (a sheep's paunch filled with the "pluck" minced, with suet, onions, salt, and pepper), and thereby setting free such a flood of gravy, that the whole party have to jump upon the chairs and tables to save themselves from being drowned in it! In truth, Mr. Skelton should have reversed his method of selection;

and if, in operating upon the Professor's twelve remaining volumes, he will, instead of retaining, omit everything "amazingly humorous," he will be the best Wilson-squeezer imaginable.

Yet, his intentions here were as good as could be. The 'Noctes' are dying of dropsy, so Mr. Skelton, to save them, squeezes away all the political events—so important once, so unimportant now,—all the foolish laudation, and more foolish abuse of those who took part in them. He eliminates all the critiques upon all those "greatest poems" and those "greatest novels of the age," written by Christopher's friends—friends so famous once, so peacefully forgotten now. And he has left what he calls the 'Comedy of the Noctes Ambrosianæ,' i. e. "that portion of the work which deals with or presents directly and dramatically to the reader, human life, and character, and passion, as distinguished from that portion of it which is critical, and devoted to the discussion of subjects of literary, artistic, or political interest only." And, although Mr. Skelton uses thus the word "comedy" in its older and wider meaning, it is evident that it is as an "amazing humourist" that he would present to our generation the great Christopher North. And, assuredly, at this the "delighted spirit" of Christopher smiles delightedly in Hades. For, however the "Comic Muse" may pout upon hearing from Mr. Skelton that "the 'Noctes Ambrosianæ' belong to her," it is clear that the one great desire of Wilson's life was to cultivate her—was to be an "amazing humourist," in short. It is clear, besides, that there was one special kind of humour which he most of all affected, that which we call technically "Rabelæsan." To have gone down to posterity as the great English Rabelæsan of the nineteenth century, Christopher North would have freely given all his deserved fame as a prose poet, and all the thirty thousand pounds hard cash of which he was despoiled to boot. His personality was enormous. He had more of that demonic element—of which since Goethe's time we have heard so much—than any man in Scotland. Everybody seems to have been dominated by him. De Quincey, with a finer intellect than even his own—and that is using strong language—looked up to him as a spaniel looks up to his master. It is positively ludicrous while reading De Quincey's 'Autobiographic Sketches,' to come again and again upon the naïve refrain:—"I think so, so does Professor Wilson." Gigantic as was the egotism of the Opium-eater, it was overshadowed by the still more gigantic egotism of Christopher North. In this, as in everything else, he was the opposite of the finest Scottish humourist since Burns, Sir Walter Scott. Scott's desire was to create eccentric humorous characters, but to remain the simple Scottish gentleman himself. Wilson's great ambition was to be an eccentric humorous character himself; for your superlative egotist has scarcely even the wish to create. He would like the universe to himself. If Wilson had created Falstaff, and if you had expressed to him your admiration of the truthfulness of that character, he would have taken you by the shoulder and said, with a smile, "Don't you see, you fool, that Falstaff is I—John Wilson?" He always wished it to be known that the Ettrick Shepherd and Tickler were John Wilson—as much Wilson as Kit North

himself, or rather what he would have liked John Wilson to be considered. This determination to be a humorous character it was,—and no lack of literary ambition—that caused him to squander his astonishing powers in the way that Mr. Skelton, and all of us who admire the man, lament.

Many articles in *Blackwood*,—notably the one upon Shakspeare's four great tragedies and the one in which he discusses Coleridge's poetry,—show that his insight into the principles of literary art was true and deep—far too true and deep for him to be ignorant of this inexorable law, that nothing can live in literature without form, nothing but humour; but that let this flowery crown of literature show itself in the most formless kind of magazine-article or review-essay, and the writer is secure of his place according to his merits.

Has Wilson secured such a place? We fear not; and if Mr. Skelton were to ask us, on our oath, why Wilson's fourteen volumes of brilliant, eloquent, and picturesque writing are already in a sadly moribund state, while such slight and apparently fugitive essays as the "Coverley" papers, the essays of Elia, and the hurried review articles of Sydney Smith, seem to have more vitality than ever, we fear that our answer would have to be this bipartite one: first, that mere elaborated intellectual "humour" has the seeds of dissolution in it from the beginning, while temperamental humour alone can live; and, secondly, that Wilson was probably not temperamentally a humourist at all, and certainly not temperamentally a Rabelasian. But let us, by way of excuse for this rank blasphemy, say what precise meaning we attach to the word "Rabelasian,"—though the subject is so wide that there is no knowing whither it may lead us. Without venturing upon a new definition of humour, this we will venture to say, that true humour, that is to say, the humour of temperament, is conveniently divisible into two kinds:—Cervantic humour, *i.e.*, the amused, philosophic mood of the dramatist—the comedian; and Rabelasian humour, *i.e.*, the lawless abandonment of mirth, flowing mostly from exuberance of health and animal spirits, with a strong recognition of the absurdity of human life, and the almighty joke of the Cosmos—a mood which in literature is rarer than in life—rarer, perhaps, because animal spirits are not the common and characteristic accompaniments of the literary temperament.

Of Cervantic humour, Wilson has, of course, absolutely nothing. For this, the fairest flower in the garden, cannot often take root save in the most unegotistic souls. It belongs to the Chaucers, the Shakspeares, the Molières, the Addisons, the Fieldings, the Steeles, the Scotts, the Miss Austens, the George Eliots,—upon whom the rich tides of the outer life come breaking and drowning the egotism and yearning for self-expression which is the life of smaller souls. Among these—to whom to create is everything—Sterne would perhaps have been greatest of all had he never known Hall Stevenson, and never read Rabelais. While Dickens's growth was a development from Rabelasianism to Cervantism. But surely so delicate a critic as Mr. Skelton has often proved himself to be, is not going to seriously tell us that there is one ray of dramatic humour to be found in

Wilson. Why, the man had not even the mechanical skill of varying the locutions and changing the styles of his two or three characters. Even the humourless Plato could do that. Even the humourless Landor could do that. But, strip the "Shepherd's" talk of its Scottish accent and it is nothing but those same appalling mighty waters whose rush in the 'Recreations' and the 'Essays' we are so familiar with. While, as to his clumsy caricature of the sesquipedalian language of De Quincey, that is such obtrusive caricature that illusion seems to be purposely destroyed, and the "Opium-Eater" becomes a fantastic creature of Farce, and not of Comedy at all.

The "amazing humour" of Wilson, then, is not Cervantic. Is it Rabelasian? Again, we fear not. Very likely the genuine Rabelasian does not commonly belong to the "writing fellows" at all. We have had the good luck to come across two Rabelasians in our time. One was a lawyer, who hated literature with a beautiful and a pathetic hatred. The other was a drunken cobbler, who loved it with a beautiful and a pathetic love. And we have just heard from one of our finest critics that a true Rabelasian is, at this moment, to be found—where he ought to be found—at Stratford-on-Avon, and as he ought to be found—drunk. This is interesting. Yet, as there were heroes before Agamemnon, so there were Rabelasians, even among the "writing fellows," before Rabelais; the greatest of them, of course, being Aristophanes, though, from all we hear, it may be reasonably feared that when Alcibiades, instead of getting damages out of Eupolis for libel, "in a duck-pond drowned him," he thereby extinguished for ever a Rabelasian of the very first rank. But we can only judge from what we have; and, to say nothing of the tabooed *Lysistrata*, the *Birds* alone puts Aristophanes at the top of all pre-Rabelasian Rabelasians. But when those immortal words came from that dying bed at Meudon—"Let down the curtain; the farce is done," they were prophetic as regards the literary Rabelasians—prophetic in this, that no writer has since thoroughly caught the Rabelasian mood—the mood, that is, of the cosmic humourist, gasping with merriment as he gobbles huge piles of meat and guzzles from huge flagons of wine. Yet, if his mantle has fallen upon no one pair of shoulders, a corner of it has dropped upon several; for the great *Curé* divides his qualities among his followers impartially, giving but one to each, like the pine-apple in the "Paradise of Fruits," from which every other fruit in the garden drew its own peculiar flavour, and then charged its neighbour-fruits with stealing theirs. Among a few others, it may be said that the cosmic humour has fallen to Swift (in whom, however, earnestness half stifled it), Sterne, and Richter; while the animal spirits—the love of life—the fine passion for victuals and drink—has fallen to several more,—notably to Thomas Amory, the creator of *John Bunce*; to Herriek, to old John Skelton, to Burns (in the 'Jolly Beggars'), to John Skinner, the author of 'Tullochgorum.' Shakspeare, having everything, has, of course, both sides of Rabelasianism as well as Cervantism. Some of the scenes in 'Henry the Fourth' and 'Henry the Fifth' are rich with it. So is 'Twelfth Night,' to go no further. Dickens's Rabelasianism stopped with 'Pickwick.' If

Hood's gastric fluid had been a thousand times stronger, he would have been the greatest Rabelasian since Rabelais. A good man, if his juices are right, may grow into Cervantism, but you cannot grow into Rabelasianism. Neither can you simulate it without coming to grief. Yet, of simulated Rabelasianism, all literature is, alas! full; and this is how the simulators come to grief: simulated cosmic humour becomes the self-conscious grimacing and sad posture-making of the harlequin sage, such as we see in those who make life hideous by imitating Mr. Carlyle. This is bad. But far worse is simulated animal spirits, *i.e.*, jolly-doggism. This is insupportable. For we ask the reader—who may very likely have been to an undergraduate's wine party, or to a medical students' revel, or who may have read the 'Noctes Ambrosianæ'—we seriously and earnestly ask him whether, among all the dreary things of this sometimes dreary life, there is anything half so dreadful as jolly-doggism.

And, now we come reluctantly to the point. It breaks our heart to say to Mr. Skelton, for we believed in Prof. Wilson once; it breaks our heart to say that Wilson's Rabelasianism is nothing but jolly-doggism of the most prepenne, affected, and piteous kind. In reading the 'Noctes,' we feel, as Jefferson Rip van Winkle must have felt, surrounded by the ghosts on the top of the Katskill Mountains. We say to ourselves, "How comparatively comfortable we should feel if those bloodless, marrowless spectres wouldn't pretend to be jolly—if they would not pretend to be enjoying their phantom bowls and their ghastly liquor!"

Though John Skinner and Thomas Amory have but a small endowment of the great master's humour, their animal spirits are genuine. They do not hop, skip, and jump for effect. Their friskiness is the friskiness of the retriever puppy when let loose; of the urchin who runs shrieking against the shrieking wind in the unsyllabled tongue that all creatures know, "I live, I live, I live." But, whatever might have been the physical health of Wilson, there is a hollow ring about the literary cheerfulness of the 'Noctes' that, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, makes us think that he was at heart almost a melancholy man; that makes us think that the real Wilson is the Wilson of the 'Isle of Palms,' 'The City of the Plague,' of the 'Trials of Margaret Lyndsay,' of the 'Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life'; Wilson the Wordsworthian, the lover of Nature, whom Jeffrey describes when he says that "almost the only passions with which his poetry is conversant are the gentler sympathies of our nature—tender compassion, confiding affection and gentleness, and sorrow."

He wished to be thought a rollicking, devil-me-care protagonist, a good-tempered giant ready to swallow with a guffaw the whole cockney army if necessary. This kind of man he may have been—Mr. Skelton inferentially says he was; all we know is, that his writings lead us to think he was playing a part. A temperamental humourist, we say, decidedly he was not.

Is there then no humour to be found in this book? In a certain sense no doubt humour may be found there. Just as science tells us that all the stars in heaven are composed of pretty much the same elements as the familiar earth on which we live, or dream we live,



so is every one among us composed of the same elements as all the rest, and one of the most important elements common to all human kind is humour. And, if a man takes to expressing in literary forms the little humour within him, it is but natural that the more vigorous, the more agile is his intellect and the greater is his literary skill, the more deceptive is his mere intellectual humour, the more telling his wit. Now Wilson's intellect, was exceedingly and wonderfully fine. As strong as it was swift, it could fly over many a wide track of knowledge and of speculation unknocked by not a few of those who, now-a-days, would underrate him, dropping a rain of diamonds from his wings like the fabulous bird of North Cathay. "Wordy, alas! he is, most wordy." Yet he is a fine, and might have been a great, writer. He has the vision of the poet, far-reaching and true, as was the Eastern poet's of whom it was said:—

Roc-like, the poet soars, most wide of wing,  
Vast belts of beauty mirror'd in his eyes,  
That stretch right onward to the utter ring  
Of undreamed harmonies.

That a man thus endowed should, if he gave his mind to it, produce something so very like humour that many good and clever people have mistaken it for the real thing is not surprising; but it is Brummagem, nevertheless.

*Natal: a History and Description of the Colony.* By Henry Brooks. (L. Reeve & Co.)

THERE are three methods of preparing a description of a foreign country. The author may either go to the country he desires to describe, and place before us the results of his personal observations; or he may consult every author who has written before him on the subject; or he may combine personal observation with a study of other authorities. This last method is evidently the most satisfactory, for personal observation and experience are limited by time, distance, and opportunity, and particular branches of inquiry require a special knowledge of each which is rarely to be found combined in the same individual. It yields, in fact, the advantages which are to be derived from disposing over a staff of numerous *collaborateurs* specially fitted for particular tasks; and if the author is a man of discrimination, capable of testing the information furnished by others, he finds himself in a position for producing a really good work, which may be rendered attractive, too, by the introduction of local colouring, such as the study of books only rarely enables an author to impart.

Mr. H. Brooks, the author of 'Natal,' has the good fortune to belong to the third category of authors mentioned above. He possesses all the advantages which many years' residence in the country can give him, and has, moreover, availed himself of the labours of preceding authors, and of the personal knowledge of other residents, foremost amongst whom should be placed Dr. R. J. Mann, the late Superintendent of Education in Natal, and one of the most esteemed writers on that colony. His work, under these happy circumstances, is one of great authority. His facts, moreover, are presented in an attractive and lucid manner; figures and tables are given whenever they are really wanted, but never obtrusively; and the author has succeeded in what he undertook to perform, viz., the production of a "readable" book.

Natal is one of our most remote colonies. It is of recent date, having been occupied only in 1823, and of comparatively slow growth; but there is much to be said with respect to it, which is calculated to interest a wide circle of readers. Favoured by nature, as far as its natural productions are concerned, the country is less happily situated as regards facility of intercommunication, for whilst all kinds of tropical produce, including pine-apples, bananas, the sugar-cane, and coffee, ripen in its semi-tropical maritime region, and our European plants in the temperate hilly districts of the interior, its only harbour, that of D'Urban, is hardly more than an open roadstead, and amongst its numerous rivers and rivulets there is not one which is navigable. Excellent coal is found, however, and will facilitate the introduction of railways. Animal life is abundant, though less so now than it was only a few years ago. Old settlers still remember having seen elephants near the coast, but this monarch of the African forest is seen now only in some remote corners of the colony, and the same remark applies to the buffalo. The hippopotamus and the leopard still linger behind; but the lion, the giraffe, and rhinoceros have disappeared for ever; and only those ignoble beasts, the hyena and the jackal, and the graceful antelope, still maintain their ground. To the sportsman, therefore, Natal no longer affords attractions as formerly; but in his journey through the colony to the more productive hunting-grounds of the interior, he cannot fail to be struck with the natural beauties of the country. It is a land of hills and valleys, intersected by numerous rivers, rushing headlong to the sea, and forming cascades and waterfalls, amongst which the Umgeni, which makes a bold plunge of 323 feet, is the most remarkable.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is that which refers to the early settlement of the colony. The exodus of the Dutch boers from Cape Colony, where they took umbrage at the humane interest evinced towards the indigenous population, their subsequent descent into Natal, and early struggles with the Kaffers, are described most graphically. We can hardly help sympathizing with these sturdy pioneers, when we find them, at the termination of their struggles, in sight of the coast, but in sight, too, of their old enemies, the red-coats from the Cape. They had been anticipated, and, being baffled, they retreated to the wilds of inner Africa.

The photographic and other illustrations accompanying this volume are everything that could be desired.

*The Paston Letters, A.D. 1422-1509.* Edited by James Gairdner. 3 vols. Arber's Series. (Bowes.)

It is happily no longer needful to explain what the Paston letters are, or to enter at length into the question of their genuineness. Mr. Herman Merivale's article, which appeared some ten years ago in the *Fortnightly Review*, only put into form, with such argument as was needed, doubts which had flitted across the mind of many a former student. The suspicions were groundless. The genuineness of the Paston correspondence has been demonstrated by the discovery of many of the originals, and of a large mass of addi-

tional matter relating to the family. When, however, all these were unknown, and there was nothing for the world to judge them by except the text given in Sir John Fenn's edition, it was pardonable for all but the most exact historical students to have doubts. The letters contained so few facts relating to the national history that were new; the language, though clothed in the strangest spelling, often rang with so very familiar a sound on modern ears; and the evidence which the correspondence furnished as to the education of the people in the fifteenth century was so absolutely contrary to what we had learnt from ordinary books which pass current for histories,—that it required a critical faculty of high order for any one to be able to reason himself into absolute certainty as to their genuineness when doubts had once been instilled into his mind.

The manuscripts of the first and second volumes of Fenn's work have not as yet been discovered. They were presented by Sir John to George the Third, on May 23, 1787, and have never since been heard of. The originals of the remaining three volumes have for the most part been recovered. A large mass of them was submitted to inspection in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in 1866, and the report published thereon in the *Archæologia* was of such a nature as to remove all reasonable doubts. If any suspicion could have lingered in the minds of sceptical people, it must be swept away by Mr. Gairdner's new edition. Till now, we had the letters in no sort of order. The first two volumes extended from the beginning to the end of the series, and contained all the letters which Fenn thought at the time important. When the book sold well, and attracted attention, the others were then issued as a supplement. The consequence was that, in following up any subject, the reader had to skip from volume to volume, and at the last be content with only part of the evidence, for even after the publication of the fifth volume several important letters remained unprinted.

If the lost originals had none of them ever been discovered, the accuracy with which places and things are spoken of—a strict correspondence in small details which any one who knows the country where the Pastons lived and held lands may verify for himself—would have gone very far towards proving that they could not possibly be a spurious manufacture of the eighteenth century; but nothing save a sight of the originals themselves would have convinced some persons, that not only lords and the higher commoners, such as the Pastons themselves and their immediate allies, could write fluently, but that, as Mr. Gairdner says, "no person of any rank or station in society above mere labouring men seems to have been wholly illiterate." Many of these letters are written by servants; and although it must be borne in mind that the term servant in those days had a far wider meaning than it now has, yet some of the correspondents of this class were certainly in a position which we, at the present day, should consider as menial. Richard Calle, the most prominent one among them, was probably something between an agent and a farm-bailiff. There is, however, quite sufficient evidence to show not only that the Pastons did not look upon him as an equal, but that, when Margery Paston fell in love with him

and insisted upon marriage, 'they considered it as a terrible social degradation. Her younger brother John says, writing to the eldest brother, the head of the family:—

"To the extent that [neither] he nor they shall pyck no comfort of me, I answerd hym, that and my fadyr, whom God asoyle, were a lye and had consentyd ther to, and my modyr, and ye bothe, he shold never have my good wyll for to make my suster to selle kandyll and mustard in Framlyngham."

Yet this Richard Calle is one of the most amusing of the male letter-writers in the collection. Is it possible that, as well as serving the Pastons, he may have been in business on his own account as a shopkeeper at Framlingham; or were the remarks about selling candle and mustard there mere spiteful bitterness, without any distinct meaning? William Pecok, however, was certainly a servant in the nineteenth-century sense—most probably the house-steward; and Constance Reynforth, Sir John Paston's concubine, cannot well have been a lady; yet their letters are as clearly and as well expressed as those of any of the nobles into whose company the irony of fate has thrown them.

Perhaps the most important service which the Paston letters have accomplished is that they have furnished undoubted evidence that the popular notion as to the general ignorance of mankind before the revival of letters is a mistake, or at least a half-truth which has been systematically exaggerated for partisan purposes in the beginning, and afterwards taken up on hearsay by the common herd of careless and inaccurate writers. The 'Plumpton Correspondence,' published in 1839 by the Camden Society, would have been sufficient to prove this, if every paper belonging to the Pastons and their kin had perished. We believe, however, that the people of Norfolk and the neighbouring shires, who were within an easy distance of London, were really more scholarly than those who dwelt further north. They went much oftener to town, and some of them had occasion frequently to cross the sea to visit Calais, and occasionally strayed as far as Flanders. The Pastons, themselves, were mixed up with Calais affairs; and, as they always went about, such was then the custom, with a considerable retinue, many of their people would pick up a certain smattering of foreign tongues. John Paston, in 1476, writes to Lord Hastings, who was preparing to go over to Calais to fill the office of lieutenant there, that he had heard of a person "whyche to my thyngkyng is meetly to be clerk of your kechyn. . . . He is well spoken in Inglysh, metly well in Frenshe, and very perfit in Flemyshe. He can wryght and reed. Hys name is Rychard Stratton." His mother, it appears from what follows, lived at Calais, which accounts for Stratton's knowledge of a "diversity of tongues," but not for the reading and writing. The office which Paston thought he might "meetly" fill was not one that would be held by a gentleman in any but a royal household. If we may assume, as it is probable that we may, that, from the thirteenth century downwards to the present time, literary culture has been slowly but surely making way among the people, the North of England must have been, in the fifteenth century, in a far more illiterate con-

dition than Norfolk; for in the middle of the succeeding century, the Northumbrian nobles and squires, to the number of 146, set their hands to a document concerning the fortification of the Borders, and among them only fifty-one could sign their names. The rest all used their marks only; and for fear that there should be any mistake in the matter, as in those days men who could write well often signed with a cross or a scratch to save themselves trouble, the heading of the document sets forth that "such of them as can write have hereunto subscribed their names, and such others as cannot write have hereunto set their marks and caused their names hereafter to be written" (Raine's 'North Durham,' xxxii). Among those who sign with a mark are Heron, Ogle, Swinburn, Manners, and several others of the noblest blood in the north country.

Mr. Gairdner is of opinion that in those days marriages were commonly made from mercenary motives. "Property was at all times a matter of more importance than love to that selfish generation; it was plainly, avowedly, regarded by every one as the principal point in marrying." This is really a great deal too sweeping. Marriages for the sake of wealth and position were no doubt very common then; but marriages for love, imprudent marriages, as business-like people would call them now, were, we believe, almost as frequent then as now. It is evident from the letters before us that Margery Paston's marriage with Richard Calle was a love-match on her part, and we see not the least reason for doubting that it was so on his side also. He seems to have gained little in a worldly sense from the connexion. There are several letters, too, relating to the marriage of Margery Brews with the youngest John Paston: we certainly gather from them that love had much more to do with bringing about the wedding than the bride's dowry. But we must protest against judging of the affections of lovers by the letters that have been handed down from past times. Letters are preserved, when preserved at all, almost solely as matters of business. It may be very needful for a gentleman of to-day to take care of the letters which have passed between his bride's father and himself, or her solicitors, with regard to the marriage settlements. In such a case he will put them away with other important family papers. It would be hard if, when 400 years had gone by, and all other evidence had perished, it were said that "property was at all times" with him "a matter of more importance than love." However it may have been before marriage, the Paston ladies seem to have made most exemplary wives. The letters from Agnes and Margaret to their respective husbands are by far the most entertaining documents in the collection. They seem to have been in thorough sympathy with their lords, and to have looked after the management of their estates and pecuniary concerns with the keenest interest. They were evidently sharp women of business, who had far too much on their hands to be low spirited. When they and their husbands are in the sorest straits from their turbulent neighbours, who besiege their manor-houses, put clergymen in the stocks, or assault their people, these brave women always write cheerfully and to the

point. Margaret, the wife of John Paston, seems to have been really a most wide-minded and efficient woman. There are nearly a hundred of her letters, most of them printed at full length. We have, therefore, a much better chance of reading her character than we have that of any one else who flits before us. She is, indeed, to borrow a word from the novelist, the heroine of the book. A prosaic heroine certainly, but one who must have been looked upon by her neighbours as a perfect encyclopædia of the knowledge of the day. She seems to have had a fair acquaintance with almost everything that was required to be known in those days: farming, building, legal matters, dress, private war, heraldry, and medicine are all touched upon by her in a way that shows that she had a good working knowledge of what she was writing about. It is no use longing for the impossible; but one cannot but wish that Margaret Paston had kept a diary, and that the fates had permitted it to reach our time.

Though these letters contain little that is new relating to those wider interests which alone people denominate history, they are of immense importance to the historical student, inasmuch as they raise the curtain from private life, and let us see what really was the state of the country during the Wars of the Roses. It is a dark time,—far less truly understood than the days that went before, or the Tudor period. Historians of the higher type have mostly avoided it; and it is not too much to say that none of us has more than a very dim vision as to what were the motives which instigated the actors in that long tragedy. The turbulence of the old feudal nobility, we are told, was the root of the mischief. This is true, as far as it goes, but tells very little. Why were the nobles turbulent from the reign of Richard the Second to that of Henry the Seventh, when they had been, compared with their fellows on the Continent, notably law-abiding under the first and third Edwards? Neither the letters here given, nor their annotator, gives us any answer. We, however, gather that the disorganized state of society was rather the cause than the result of the civil war. There were then, as there will be in every country which is a prey to violent faction, men who made rebellion a trade; but the good, honest, and loyal men who from time to time joined first one factious leader and then another, did so, we are persuaded, from the vain notion that they were helping to found a strong government, under which it should be impossible for nobles to override the law courts, and possess themselves of their neighbours' castles by levying private war, when juries should not be systematically corrupted or frightened into giving false verdicts, and men should not be murdered without form of trial because their acts had been injudicious, unpopular, or unfortunate.

The strongest desire of men's hearts in those days was for a king who would rule as Edward the First had done, not by mean and selfish favourites, whether noble or low born. Such a ruler was hoped for in every change of government; and that desire, quite as much "as the natural genius of the men themselves therunto" made the Tudor tyranny possible in the succeeding century.

There is a current opinion that during the darkest times of the Christian Middle Ages



here in England the churches were respected. Reformers and Puritans are credited with unnumbered atrocities, and much is said of the doings of eighteenth-century churchwardens; but it is implied that the wildest follower of a Duke of York or an Earl of Warwick would have shown all due respect for a church and its sacred furniture. Margaret Paston has a different account to give. Writing to her husband on the eve of Saint Simon and Saint Jude, 1465, she informs him that three days before she had gone over to Hellesden, an estate of her husband's, which the men of the Duke of Suffolk had pillaged, "there wyl no cryatur thynke how fowle and orubelly it ys arayed, but yf they sey it. . . The Duck ys men rensackyd the church, and bare away all the gode that was left ther"; and then she goes on to tell how they stood upon the high altar, stripped the images, and carried off every valuable thing that they could lay their hands upon. Such acts indeed were far from uncommon. The information against Robert Ledham—a document compiled in 1454—sets forth that he and his "riottys feloshippe" had beaten the parson of Hasingham, and broken his head in his own chancel; that they had set upon Thomas Chambre, of South Birlingham, when he was in church "kneling to see the usyng of the masse," and would have killed him at the priest's back had they not been hindered.

One of these letters furnishes an important correction regarding the battle of Towton. Hume says, quoting Holinshed, Grafton, and the 'Croyland Chronicle,' that "above thirty-six thousand men are computed to have fallen in the battle and pursuit"; and this statement has been copied into numberless school-books down to the present day. Towton was fought on Palm Sunday, March 29, 1461. On the 4th of April, William Paston and Thomas Playters wrote an account of it to John Paston, which is avowedly compiled from a letter "under the signe manuel of our soverayn Lord, King Edward," which the Queen received on Easter even, at eleven o'clock. In the body of this letter, the number of Lancastrians slain is estimated at 20,000; and on a piece of paper attached to the letter on which is a list of the nobles killed, we are told that the dead were 28,000 as numbered by the heralds. We ourselves believe even these numbers to be too high. They seem enormous when compared with the slain in the great battles of more modern times, when we have really a trustworthy account of the killed. That the heralds counted the dead bodies is impossible; the corpses must have been scattered over many miles of wild country. What they did was to make a rough estimate, probably based upon the losses really sustained by some few bodies of men with whose numbers they were familiar. At first the guess reached but to 28,000; as the great battle got talked about however, everything concerning it grew; and when the numbers reached the chroniclers, they had got up to 36,000.

Mr. Gairdner has done his work with great care and thoroughness. The Introductions are well nigh all that could be wished, and the Index is full and accurate. He has, however, made a mistake in not giving his readers a tabular pedigree of the Pastons and their kin as far as they are mentioned in the letters. Pedigree details are not easily stowed away in

the memory at any time; they are especially confusing in this case where you have a father and his two elder sons all called John, and two Margerys and a Margaret also contemporary.

*Wills of their Own, Curious, Eccentric, and Benevolent. Collated and Arranged by William Tegg. (Tegg & Co.)*

THE chief interest of Mr. Tegg's little book is to be found where it shows that mortals who live so short a time cannot dispose for ever of what no longer is their own. There is the case of a Matthew Wall, of Braughing, Herts, who, nearly three hundred years ago, left to the Stortford vicar and to the parish clerk of Hallingbury, 8d. each yearly, for proclaiming on each Ascension and Michaelmas Day "that he left his estate to a Matthew, or William Wall, as long as the world should endure." He also left 5s. to the minister and churchwardens of Hallingbury yearly, for seeing to the due carrying out of his directions. How far the testator's instructions are now observed is not told; but we read of another, one Philip Shelley, a goldsmith, who, in 1603, left 10l. per annum, for ever, to poor maimed soldiers. This sum continues to be distributed, generally among the Chelsea pensioners. In memory, too, of a Sussex jolly fellow, named Cooper, who, in 1621, left 15s. yearly to the poor of Slinfold, for "a drinking," and 5s. to the churchwardens and overseers, "to drink withal themselves," the poor of that parish now receive the whole of the money on Christmas-day, and wish peace to the joyous soul from whom it comes to them. Some good souls in London were wiser in their generation, and left funds for lighting candles and hanging them up in lanterns in dark and dangerous places near the river, or up by St. Pancras, and other localities then also dark and dangerous. There are more questionable bequests to persons, on condition they attend church regularly; but the most unreasonable of all, at least to married people, in this collection is the following:—

"Dr. Thomas White, Bishop of Peterborough, by his will, bearing date in 1690, gave to the poor of the parish of Newark 240l. to be laid out in land, 10l. of which rent he allotted to the poor yearly for ever, and the surplusage, whatever it should be, to the rector, as a reward for his pains and fidelity in the distribution of the said 10l. to the poor; and he directed that the distribution should be made yearly by the rector in the church porch, in the presence of the churchwardens or overseers, in the following manner, viz.: that it should be distributed the 14th December to twenty poor families, or persons of forty years old each, by equal shares, reckoning husband and wife for one person, who should, before the receipt thereof, exactly and distinctly repeat the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the Ten Commandments, without missing or changing one word therein. And if any man and wife should appear for a share in the said charity, it should not be a sufficient qualification for them that one of them made the exact rehearsal, but they should both make it, or else have no share at all in it. He also directed that no one should receive his charity twice, till all the poor of the parish should have received it once who should make the repetition aforesaid, that the advantage might spread as far as possible."

The above Bishop White was the prelate who was deprived in 1691 for refusing to take the oaths. Mr. Tegg says, in a note, that White left a similar bequest to the parish of Bottesford, Leicestershire. The money was laid out

in land, which produces nearly 40l. annually. Of this, the sum of 10l. is distributed according to the will, and, according to Mr. Tegg, "the rector retains the surplus himself." It is hard that married couples, reckoning as two in responsibility, should only count as one in the recompense. If the two, being one in wedlock, could repeat the task between them, they would seem to have a fair claim to the prize. One of the eccentric testators, Daniel Martinett, duly records in his will, that his undertaker can claim nothing, as he (Daniel) had won the funeral charge from him, some time before, at billiards! A very complaisant gentleman expresses himself thus:—"My infant graces and little embryo virtues are, I trust, gone before me to heaven, and will, I hope, prove successful messengers to prepare my way"! A Mr. Darby left his wife one shilling, in consideration of her having picked his pocket of sixty guineas! One fond husband begs that his wife, after his decease, "do not offend artistic taste or blazen the sacred feelings of her sweet and gentle nature by the exhibition of a widow's cap"; but a less fond husband directs a third of his widow's annuity to be forfeited if she fail to don weeds and cap. There is a "governor" of the old school who leaves estates to his two sons, on condition of forfeiting them if they ever wear moustaches! We pass from these English eccentrics to one beyond the Atlantic:—

"In 1733 there died at Lexington, America, John Underwood, who, in accordance with his will, was buried after this fashion:—The funeral was at five in the evening. No bell was tolled; no relative was present; the bier was painted green, and the body was laid on it dressed in ordinary clothes; beneath the head was placed a copy of Horace, at his feet a Milton, on his right hand a small Greek Bible, with his name on the binding in gilt letters, on the left a smaller edition of Horace with the inscription 'Musis amicus, J. U.' and under his shoulders Bentley's Horace. When the ceremony was concluded, his friends returned to his house, where his sister awaited them, and all sat down to an elegant supper; after it was over, the company joined in singing the thirty-first ode of the first book of Horace. Then they drank gaily for some time, but retired at eight o'clock. Mr. Underwood bequeathed about fifty thousand dollars to his sister, on condition that she should carry out faithfully the conditions of his will; he left ten pounds sterling to each of his friends, requesting them not to wear mourning. As another detail, as soon as the grave was filled up and covered with turf, the six friends who had attended on the occasion sang the last stanza of the twentieth ode of the second book of Horace."

The "Fruī paratis . . . precor," in the first-named ode, might, with a slight Irish accent, be taken for an allusion to a dish at the supper-table. The lines sung by the sextette of friends, at the grave-side are appropriate to such circumstances as that detailed. One would like to know to what music these tuneful lines were chanted:—

Abiit inani funere nūnia,  
Luctusque turpes et querimonie;  
Compece, clamorem ac sepulchri  
Mitte supervacuos honores.

The sentiment is one that is rapidly extending at the present day. To return to English matters, we find that Pope's illustration of pride beyond death, in the person of Mrs. Oldfield, is applicable to poor human nature even now. A lady in Somersetshire, who died recently, left by will 300l. for her funeral, and ordered "that she should be buried in cambric, and in a mahogany coffin."

Of course, such books as the one we now have before us are merely compilations; the materials are taken from various publications, occasionally from original wills themselves, and often from the pages of other compilers who have gone to sources open to the public generally. Thus, out of about one hundred and forty examples, fifty-seven are selected from the Reports of the Commissioners on the Charities of England and Wales, from which Mr. Edwards, about six-and-thirty years ago, compiled his 'Collection of Remarkable Charities.' The *City Press* supplies Mr. Tegg with twenty-seven examples of wills, and Mr. Nichols's well-known work with twenty-two. Other publications furnish from eight down to single specimens of will-making; and we may express an opinion that, had Mr. Tegg gone further afield, and had explored less familiar woods and pastures, his little book would have been all the better for it. The papers of the last century abound in accounts of eccentric disposals of property. We quote one instance which has just attracted our eye in the *Sun* newspaper, for Friday, February 3, 1797:—

"The following circumstance is as true as it is remarkable:—A few months ago, two gentlemen, who had been left executors to the will of a friend, on examining into the property left by the testator, found they could not discharge the legacies by some hundreds of pounds. Astonished at this circumstance, as the deceased had frequently informed them he should have more than sufficient for that purpose, they made the most diligent search possible among his papers, &c., and found a scrap of paper, on which was written, 'Seven hundred pounds in Till.' This they took in the literal sense of it; but as their friend had never been in trade, they imagined it singular he should keep such a sum of money in a till; however, they examined all his apartments carefully, but in vain, and, after repeated attempts to discover it, gave over the search. They sold his library of books to an eminent bookseller, near the Mews, and paid the legacies in proportion. The singularity of the circumstance occasioned them frequently to converse about it, and they recollected among the books sold (which had taken place upwards of seven weeks before) there was a folio edition of 'Tillotson's Sermons.' The probability of this being what was alluded to by the word 'Till' on the piece of paper made one of them immediately wait upon Mr. —, who had purchased the books, and ask him if he had the edition of Tillotson which had been among the books sold to him; on his reply in the affirmative, and the volumes being handed down, the gentleman immediately purchased them, and, on carefully examining the leaves, found bank-notes, singly dispersed in various places of the volumes, to the amount of seven hundred pounds! But what is perhaps no less remarkable than the preceding, the bookseller informed him that a gentleman at Cambridge, reading in his catalogue of this edition to be sold, had written to him and desired it might be sent to Cambridge, which was accordingly done; but the books, not answering the gentleman's expectations, had been returned, and had been in the bookseller's shop till the period of this very singular discovery."

We hope this story will lead compilers to follow new paths, instead of copying from each other.

*The Seventh Great Oriental Monarchy.* By G. Rawlinson, M.A. (Murray.)

PROF. RAWLINSON had set before himself the task of writing a history of the ancient Eastern world, and after eighteen years of labour he has at length published the last chapter, an account of the Sassanian Kings of Persia, a

dynasty which forms the connecting link between ancient and modern history.

Ancient Armenian literature, early Arab and Persian historians, Byzantine writers, as well as all the extant coins and monumental inscriptions, have been laid under contribution, and the result is a work which for careful and exhaustive treatment of the subject has seldom been surpassed. The royal house of the Sassanian monarchs commences with Artaxerxes the First, who revolted against his feudal lord, the Parthian King, and after a brief war succeeded in establishing himself on the throne of Persia.

About A.D. 229, an unsuccessful attempt to reduce Armenia, which was supported by Rome, brought about a collision with the latter empire, and although the result of the contest was, on the whole, favourable to the Persian monarch, he was unable to compass the entire sovereignty of Asia, at which he had aimed, and a struggle was commenced with the Roman empire, which lasted, with brief intervals of peace, for nearly a century and a half.

The first act of Artaxerxes, on gaining his independence, was to restore the Zoroastrian religion, and of this Prof. Rawlinson gives a most interesting and succinct account. The next most important incident in the work, the story of the struggle of the Roman Emperor Valerian against Sapor, the treachery and usurpation of Macrianus, the Prætorian Prefect, and the investiture by the victorious Persian monarch of an obscure refugee from Antioch, with the imperial purple, is well known to the student of history, but it is here told with additional accuracy and detail, and illustrated by contemporaneous sculpture and inscriptions. In the next chapter to that in which these events are recorded, we have an account of the rise and fall of the celebrated heresiarch Mani, the Manes of Christian writers.

This enthusiast appears to have endeavoured to combine the cabalism of the Babylonian Jews, the dualism of the Magi, the doctrines of Christianity, and even the Buddhism of India, into one religious system, adopting the dualism of the Magi, the angelism and demonism of the Talmud, and the Trinitarianism of the Gospel. "He assumed," says Prof. Rawlinson, "to be the Paraclete promised by Christ, who should guide men into all truth, and claimed that his 'Ertang,' a sacred book, illustrated by pictures of his own painting, should supersede the New Testament." As might be expected, the attempt to combine such opposing elements failed, and Manichæism, although it left its mark on the religious thought of the age, was quickly suppressed, and its founder put to death. In the passage just quoted there is a slight error: the work of Manes was called not 'Ertang,' but 'Arzhang,' and is frequently alluded to by the Persian poets, by whom the tradition of his genius as a painter has been preserved, while that of his prophetic pretensions has been entirely neglected by them.

It is impossible, within the limits of a notice like the present, to do more than allude to the events of the subsequent reigns, the wars of Sapor the Second with Rome during the rule of Constantius, Julian, and Jovian, which lasted until A.D. 363; the accession of Khosroes the Second, and his conflict with Heraclius, and, later on, the rise of Mohammedanism and subsequent conquest

of Persia by the Arabs, which put an end to the Sassanian dynasty. But these events have a most important bearing upon the history of civilization, both Eastern and Western, and the present account of them, ample as it is in detail, is the more welcome, as no previous European historian has treated the subject from the Oriental standpoint. The last two chapters are devoted to an examination of the Architecture, Art, Religion, and Public and Private Life of the Persians under the Sassanian Princes, and are illustrated with carefully-executed woodcuts.

One of the greatest drawbacks to the complete understanding of ancient history is that the ancient chronicles are rather biographies of individual sovereigns than annals of the people themselves; and one of the greatest advantages of the modern method is that, by bringing together every available piece of collateral evidence, by the discovery and interpretation of inscriptions, by coins and sculptured monuments, and by philological, geographical, and ethnical investigations, we are enabled to fill up the lacunæ in the chronicles, and out of a bare catalogue of princes to compile a fresh chapter in the history of humanity. Of this method, Prof. Rawlinson's 'Seventh Great Oriental Monarchy' is a splendid example, and we do not know which to admire most—the vast extent of the research displayed, or the skill with which the history has been evolved from such multifarious materials.

#### RECENT ENGLISH HISTORY.

*Geschichte Englands seit den Friedensschlüssen von 1814 und 1815.* Von Reinhold Pauli. Dritter Theil. *Der Freihandel und die Manchester Schule 1841 bis 1852.* (Leipzig, Hirzel.)

DR. PAULI's name is well known in England, both to the general reader, and still more to students of English history. The most eminent of the latter class, Prof. Stubbs, has just pronounced his work on our early history to be "invaluable." We are afraid that it is only a very much smaller number of historical students who will be interested when they hear that the third volume of his 'History of England since 1815' has appeared.

It is not so much our intention at present to review it as simply to call attention to it. And, first, let us remark the singular difference between the taste of an English and a German public. The volume now published by Dr. Pauli is the third of the work; it consists of 530 pages, printed pretty closely. And yet the period it embraces is not commonly considered very interesting. There are, indeed, one or two exciting incidents in it—the success of the Anti-Corn-Law League, and Sir Robert Peel's recantation, but even here the questions are not of a thrilling kind; in short, the period is eminently financial. And even this source of interest dries up in 1846; and six of the eleven years described by Dr. Pauli are occupied with that ministry of Lord John Russell which we are, most of us, accustomed to think of as very barren and uneventful. Imagine an English writer of great eminence treating a similar period of German history with equal minuteness! Why, with the exception of Mr. Carlyle, no English writer of mark has treated any period of recent German history, we do not say with minute-



ness, but at all. Mr. Carlyle has chosen the most striking character and the most exciting incident in modern German history, and, with the help of humour, eloquence, and exaggeration, he has contrived to make the English public take a languid interest in his narration. But such a period as Dr. Pauli has treated, Mr. Carlyle would have instinctively felt must be abridged to the utmost, if not skipped. He would have thought it scarcely safe to allot twenty pages where Dr. Pauli has allotted 530. Whatever allowance we may make for the large University public in Germany, it is still difficult to understand how the book markets of the two countries can differ so widely.

Nevertheless, Dr. Pauli himself will tell us that the difference is not entirely to the advantage of his countrymen. Our misfortune is that we have no learned public, or a very insignificant one; on the other hand, our general public, it would seem, reads more—or, at any rate, more of a certain kind of books—than the general public of Germany. For Dr. Pauli himself, reviewing Mr. Green's short history in the *Historische Zeitschrift* of Von Sybel, expressed the same sort of surprise at the great sale of that book which we cannot but express here at the German demand which makes it possible for him to publish his own.

One might have supposed beforehand that, with our strong political interests, we should read greedily whatever appeared on the recent history of our country, but not take so much interest in the more distant periods. The very contrary, however, seems to be true. Mr. Green's instinct led him to shorten as much as possible his account of recent times. His book, as it were, dies of old age. It grows weaker from the end of the seventeenth century. With the eighteenth it slips into "the lean and slippered pantaloons," and, when we think of the closing chapters, what can we say? What but that the "last scene of all"—

Is second childishness and mere oblivion,

Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything!

In truth, Mr. Green has actually done what Wordsworth, in a celebrated sonnet, declared "is not to be thought of." He has managed to make the "most famous stream" of English history, instead of broadening and deepening as it goes on, dry up gradually and "perish in bogs and sands." Meanwhile, who takes the place of men like Mr. Green in the later periods? Biographies we have in abundance, but who makes it his business to arrange the chaos of facts, and to do what is really one of the greatest services a man can render to his generation, that is, to make their age intelligible to them? Division of labour in England has not yet got so far. Thus we may say confidently that the period here treated by Dr. Pauli has never been treated by any English man or woman of much ability. Miss Martineau is an exception, as far as the earlier part of it is concerned, though she wrote too soon after, and was herself too deeply concerned in, the party warfare of those years to present things quite in their true proportion. Mr. Molesworth, much praised by Mr. Bright, who indeed had a debt to discharge, wants the power of thought required in a historian. His philosophy consists entirely in Liberal commonplaces; he has little sense of the comparative importance of things; and accordingly, his narrative simply reflects and

perpetuates that series of misjudgments of passing occurrences which the newspaper history of the time, from hurry and want of sufficient distance, must necessarily commit. In these circumstances, it is a matter of course, and mere obvious justice, to say that Dr. Pauli's history of that period is the best that has yet appeared.

Dr. Pauli writes in a good measure from personal observation. From 1847 to the end of the period—so we understand him—he was in England, and in a favourable position for watching events and meeting important men. He has had access to the papers of Baron Bunsen, who was Prussian Ambassador from 1841 to 1854, and has found among them a good deal which was new, particularly a considerable number of letters of leading English statesmen. Just too late for him arrived the 'Greville Memoirs,' of which he says that "even English criticism, generally so thick-skinned, judges that they might well have remained longer unpublished." He considers that the period embraced in the volume has a certain distinctness and completeness, and he defines it as the period when economical reform first fought its way to success, then dominated everything, and finally, in Lord John Russell's ministry, had to weather the storm of a European revolution. As we have said, it is not our purpose to review, so much as to introduce, this book. We shall pass on, therefore, to remark, that, from his intimacy with Baron Bunsen, Dr. Pauli had a particularly favourable situation for observing the movement of thought and the ecclesiastical politics of that time. And just then politics, when they were not financial, were mainly ecclesiastical. After the Corn-Law League, and the career of Peel and Cobden, the leading characters are such as Dr. Newman, Arnold, and the Bishop of Exeter, and the leading incidents the appearance of Tract 90, Dr. Newman's conversion, the Gorham case, and the Papal aggression. Scarcely any German that did not belong to Bunsen's circle could properly understand and enter into the different phases of an agitation like this, for, indeed, Bunsen was not only a witness of it all, but was also, like Virgil's Aeneas, a great part of it. Dr. Pauli devotes to this a closing chapter of fifty pages, entitled "Church and School," which to us seems a model of tone and, at the same time, of arrangement. He brings together the internal controversies of doctrine and discipline which divided the Church with the Education question, the question of University Reform, the Clergy Reserves question in Canada, the Papal Aggression, the quasi-religious influence of Mr. Carlyle, the rise of Christian Socialism under Maurice and Kingsley. Dr. Pauli's own views are rather hinted than expressed, but one can see in his sketch the reflection of Bunsen's friendship for Arnold, and also, as perhaps we might naturally expect, an inclination to side not with any religious party either inside or outside the Church, but with the State against them all. We rather gather that he carries what may be called "Statism" to a length which, in England, if such views should ever be introduced, as, indeed, to some extent, is happening, may provoke in the end a tremendous opposition. He remarks, significantly, that it was, and is, rare in England to meet with people who take the view common in Germany, that "the State,

and not the Church, is the complete form in which Christianity develops itself as the kingdom of God upon earth." The following description of two Englishmen will interest many of our readers:—

"Before all will two men, who have already been called away from their beneficent labours, live in grateful remembrance. The one, Frederick Maurice, at that time still Professor of Theology in King's College, London, well acquainted with German science, and, by the rigidly and servilely orthodox, ceaselessly branded with heresy for the freedom of his books, lectures, and sermons, was attacked, no less than for other reasons, just for this, that he had the courage to apply himself to the most formidable problem of the time, and, in active indefatigable intercourse, succeeded in making himself the sympathetic friend of those whom he desired to rescue from error and sin. In his pamphlets, 'Politics for the People,' he preached with force and effect, but in a manner especially offensive to those who were scandalized by his coming forward in his clerical character, Christian Socialism. The other, Charles Kingsley, not gifted with speculative talents or adapted to historical or scientific research, attached himself without reserve to the theologian Maurice. In him the heart decidedly outweighed the head, and made him a poet of inborn power and original feeling for beauty. His songs ring clear and keen as those of Burns or Uhland. In the romance few—and yet in these days the name of the romancers is legion—since Scott have carried us away as he did. Kingsley, too, as he had preserved from his Cambridge days an inexhaustible love of all bodily exercises, the bracing recreations of Englishmen, and, as Vicar of Eversley, for a time also as Professor at Cambridge, but principally before the Trades' Unions, threw himself, by speeches and writings, into the same socialistic activity with as restless energy as his older friend, drew on himself abundance of hatred and calumny, and was personally ridiculed as the representative of 'muscular Christianity.' And when these two men ventured to come forward as avowed Radical reformers, not by any means in the taste of the ruling classes or ambitious religious parties, when Maurice discussed strongly and broadly the burning questions of the day—Universal Suffrage, Organization of Labour, State protection for at least one half of the nation; when Kingsley, in the volumes of 'Alton Locke,' and 'Yeast,' audaciously proclaimed not only the justifiableness of Chartism, but struck home at Mammonism as the most fearful monster of the time and country, they were deluged with the venom of those their denunciations wounded. They were unhesitatingly ranked with the fathers of the Paris Commune, and the creations of deep thought or vivid poetry condemned as mischievous libels. No one would deny that much in their ideas and proceedings wanted clearness. But, as the nature of the object was seized and the only way to it entered on, a relation after all was actually formed with the dark fermenting Powers under ground, which High Life and High Church were as little able by themselves to form as the Capital and Plutocracy of the Middle Classes, combined with the democratic propensities of the Low Church and of the Nonconformists."

With this sketch, followed by a warm panegyric on Mr. Carlyle, the volume closes—a volume which leaves on our minds a strange impression, containing, as it does, a mass of faithful investigation, laid before the German public, to very few of whom it can be useful, and inaccessible (being in German) to nine out of ten Englishmen, to whom it might be invaluable.

## NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

*Penelope's Web.* By Louis Withred. 3 vols. (Samuel Tinsley.)

*Eunice.* By Mrs. Julius Pollock. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

*Sir Hubert's Marriage.* By G. T. Mayer. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

*Hogan, M.P.* 3 vols. (H. S. King & Co.)

*The Clewblend.* By Dephias. (Samuel Tinsley.)

"Oh, youth and innocence! Oh, milk and water!" should be the motto of the infantine Miss Penelope Ray. She is appropriated at an early stage of her existence by a certain Gerald, a youth with fair hair, and much idyllic love-making is recorded, in all its details, by one of the principal actors. The only relief to chapters of ingenuous transport and mild jests is furnished by the compromising conduct of Miss Ray's papa, who, being under a cloud, and a most sordid and objectionable character, seeks clandestine interviews with his daughter at unhallowed hours, and thereby creates a scandal which, for a time, puts an end to her engagement. No difficulty need have occurred had the young lady not bound herself by an idiotic promise, which affects her conscience more than does her duty to her affianced husband. Provoking as are the cross-purposes between the lovers, the relations of a Platonic sort between Penny and her pastor, Mr. Forrester, are almost more unsatisfactory. In the end, "Major Gray" is decently disposed of, the clergyman relapses into solitude, and the curtain falls on a scene of Arcadian happiness, combined with an earldom and other modern additions to Paradise.

Eunice's is a tragic story. She is the daughter of a baronet, and falls in love with Harold Harnage, her brother's tutor. When their secret is discovered, Harold is driven away to seek his fortune in Ceylon. He unexpectedly succeeds to a large inheritance, but on his homeward voyage the ship he is embarked in is destroyed by fire, and he is supposed to have perished with the rest of the passengers and crew. At this time Sir Peter's fatuous speculations have brought him to the brink of ruin, and, in order to save her father, Eunice is brought to consent to a marriage with Harold's uncle, who, having succeeded to his fortune, is enabled to assist the miserable old man. The match turns out most wretchedly, of course, and Harold's return completes the misery of the unhappy girl, who dies elaborately at the end of the third volume. This melancholy tale is fairly written, some of the minor characters, Lord Errington especially, being well described. Eunice is amiable, Harold rather too demonstrative a lover. Mr. Pyke, the financier, has his obvious prototypes, but is somewhat caricatured.

Mrs. Mayer's story is of the conventional sort, not worse than most tales of incident, of which the scene is laid in modern England. Sir Hubert, having an admirable young heiress at hand, does not admire her so much as a young person of much beauty and doubtful parentage, whom he discovers in a cottage, and proposes to his mother as his future wife. That lady is furious, and leaves her son, while the amiable Diana takes care of Rose. Unfortunately Rose is the daughter of a convict; and the convict, being also the brother of a neighbouring squire's wife, has several in-

ducements to practise his avocation in the district. One night he frightens his daughter by breaking into Diana's house, and the house-keeper, discovering his secret, induces Rose by strongly expressed advice to vanish from the scene. This turns out to be the best course she could have adopted, as while Sir Hubert readily transfers his affections to Diana, Mr. Buller, who has hitherto sighed hopelessly for that lady, is better rewarded for his new devotion to herself. The convict makes some needful revelations, and all ends happily. There is some character about Diana Redfern; the others have "no character at all."

'Hogan, M.P.' is clever, and will be read with interest by those who know little or nothing of Ireland. Whether the author's countrymen will thank him for a very damaging account of their fatherland and themselves is doubtful. It is remarkable that one who obviously knows so well both the nation and the language should not have put upon his canvas a single attractive figure, with the possible exception of Nellie Davoren and her aunt. The Protestants are all exclusive and insolent; the Roman Catholics all vulgar, superstitious, and false; the priests hectoring tyrants, the laymen selfish schemers for pelf and social advancement. Hogan himself gets into Parliament as a supporter of Home Rule (in which no one seems to believe except the ignorant and ferocious electors of Peatstown and its neighbourhood), and supports himself, in the absence of practice at the bar, by speculating in the Stock Exchange with his whole capital, and writing articles for financial manipulators. When the bubble bursts, when his parliamentary career is stopped by the defection of the peer who sent him for his private ends to St. Stephen's, and the hostility of the peasantry, who return to their allegiance to the priests; and when Saltasche, the stock-jobber, who had used and rewarded his literary services, decamps with his spoil, Hogan saves himself by marrying for a small sum of money, and obtains a post at the Antipodes, with an insignificant salary. Nellie meantime, who had honestly loved him for his plausibility, consoles herself with a cousin of more manly mould. There are, of course, some collateral points to relieve the history of the M.P. The description of life at Peatstown bears the marks of experience, while that of Trinity College is, it is to be hoped, a caricature. With characteristic cynicism, the author makes the only utterly unredeemed scoundrel in the book take orders in the Episcopal Church. No comments lead one to conjecture the purpose of this singular work, which interests while it repels us; but we presume that the denial of all virtues to all existing schools, sects, and parties has led the misanthropic author to some highly satisfactory alternative.

'The Clewblend' is a tangled mass of nonsense, by a person who is anxious to be thought a man, and who appears to have a difficult taste about aliases. On the title-page the book is said to be by "Dephias," while an advertisement at the end informs us that it is by "Moy Ella." In justification of our other assertion, and as a favourable specimen of "Dephias's" style, the following paragraph may be quoted:—

"Lady workers will tell you that it is a most uninteresting thing to take up dropped stitches. Of course, the whole proceeding of stitches is a

mystery to me, but I would do my best not to be uninteresting, and yet there are some stitches which must be lifted, or the work will not hold together, but ravel out in disorder. One of those stitches has dropped a long way behind in our story, and I feel it is high time to pick it up, and let it appear in the fabric we are weaving."

Elsewhere, the author is like one of her own characters, and "as she grows eloquent seems to lose her hold of the English language" altogether; e.g.—

"Who can turn from a kind word spoken—a kind look given? Not her, surely, who lives on the spare diet of the bitter past."

But it is when a novelist attempts to be humorous that her faults come out most clearly, just as, according to the Latin exercise-books, the character of boys discovers itself whilst they are playing. To our taste, the love-scenes between Mr. Snooks and Mrs. Dodson are odiously vulgar, and not funny at all. But "Dephias's" higher order of love-scenes is, perhaps, nastier. The "she" (Dephias would say the "her") in the following is one of the several heroines of the book:—

"She raised her eyes to his, and formed a 'no' on her lips; but she heard no sound, neither did Alec; and, besides, her eyes spoke a quicker and truer answer to his question, so he drew her towards him, strangling the lie upon her lips, and raining his love in showers of kisses, the big, hungry fellow, but we must remember it is his first feast, and he coveted it long ago."

It is unnecessary to call attention to the English. But, after all, what can be expected of a writer who says, "she laid in wait for him," and is careless enough to leave two such statements as these on two opposite pages! "He paid his fare, and managed . . . to scramble up the ship's side; then, taking one step forward, he fell prostrate on the deck"; and, "A man coming on board a vessel about to sail for Calcutta, and fainting outright before he pays his passage-money, did not suit Capt. Lebeouf's books." We will conclude this notice with the following elegant metaphor,—

"the cock's shrill notes, as they pierced the day, were daggers to his heart."

## THEOLOGICAL BOOKS.

*Groombridge's Handy Concordance to the New Testament, with Contexts comprising nearly Thirty Thousand References.* (Groombridge & Sons.)

CRUDEN'S well-known Concordance has not, with all its excellence, hindered the appearance of others; nor has it escaped the hands of improvers. The latter, however, have not always done what was best in their work of emendation. It is right to omit the explanations which are put at the commencement of words, because they are often incorrect, as well as imbued with a narrow theology. But one improvement has been overlooked, viz., the mention of the person that speaks. The little book before us relates to the New Testament alone, and has advantages which commend it to the attention of all. These are explained in the Preface:—"In our common English version, the same Greek word has been often rendered by two or more English words; while, on the other hand, a single English word has been employed to represent two or more different Greek words. In many instances, therefore, where a verbal identity, or a distinction, seen in the original, is in this way lost in the translation,—the Greek word will be seen following the heading, with its rendering by our translators in other passages of the New Testament. Thus, in p. 38, we read 'Comforter,' Παράκλητος, also 'Advocate,'—the word 1 John ii. 1, rendered 'advocate,' being in every other



passage translated 'comforter.' On the other hand, 'Judgment,' representing two or more Greek words, κρίσις—κρίμα, &c.; the texts, in which the original has κρίσις, are placed first, separated by a black line from those in which the original reads κρίμα; and these last are divided by a line from the text in which 'judgment' represents other words, or combinations of words, in the original. And here it should be noticed, that various renderings by our translators of the same words will be found following their respective Greek headings in successional order, as in page 41, κατακρίμα (condemnation) being the Greek word in Rom. 5:16, 18 & 8:1.—κατακρίσις in 2 Cor. 3:9.—κρίμα in La. 23:40. 1 Co. 11:34. 1 Tim. 3:6. Ja. 3:1. Ju. 4.—κρίσις in Jo. 3:19 & 5:24.—and ὑποκρίσις, Ja. 5:12, whilst a translation of the same words, as they occur in other passages of our English version, is also given after each. It has been considered that the omission of the ARTICLE 'the' when it appears in the original, and the insertion of it where it is not in the Greek, has, in some instances, tended to obscure the sense. The reader will therefore observe that the sign © represents the article corresponding to our English 'the' omitted by the translators, e.g., 'by the offence of © one, © many be dead:' the sign ⊙ showing that, in this passage, though the article is not found in our translation, it twice occurs in the original. On the other hand, '(the)' placed within parentheses thus (the) denotes that the article does not appear in the original, e.g., 'The love of money is (the) root,' &c. Indeed, this last passage presents an instance of a double departure from the original; the true rendering being, 'The love of money is (the) root of all © evils:' and a similar instance is found in Gal. iii. 21. 'Verily © righteousness would have been by (the) law.' Generally it may be observed, that words that appear in this Concordance enclosed in parentheses are not found in the Greek, e.g., Luke vi. 38: 'Shall (men) give into your bosom.'—2 Cor. v. 19: 'As though God did beseech (you) by us, we pray (you),' &c. Parentheses are also used to enclose chapters and verses, or even single verses, in the case of parallelisms; in order to show that, though the meaning may be similar, the parallelism is not exact; in other words, that some verbal difference appears in the English or the Greek. On the other hand, a parallelism may be exact in the original, and yet be lost in the translation. Thus, under the word 'Spirit,' Rom. viii. 27, 'mind of the Spirit,' has, as its parallelism, Rom. viii. 6; the words of both passages being exactly the same in the Greek." Such are the distinguishing features of the present Concordance. That they are improvements is apparent to every one. We recommend the volume to all Bible readers as a most useful help, and hope that it may have the large circulation which it deserves. Great labour has been spent upon it, not without effect. Had the speakers or writers been given, it would have been perfect as far as an English Concordance to the English Testament can be. Even as it is, it is superior to all others.

*Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte in Verbindung mit D. W. Gass, D. H. Reuter, und D. A. Ritschl.* Herausgegeben von Dr. Theodor Brieger. Band I., Heft I. (Gotha, Perthes.)

THE well-known *Zeitschrift* for historical theology founded by Illgen is extinct. It contained occasional papers of great value, and contributed effectually to a better knowledge of ecclesiastical history. But periodicals have their times of growth and decay. After flourishing awhile, they lose their vigour; contributors become weary of such work, or men are not found with suitable qualifications for it. The *Zeitschrift* of which Prof. Brieger is editor commences its course with fair promise and the assistance of able men, though we doubt whether Germany can furnish now enough of writers fully competent in this department. The Neanders, Gieslers, Thilos, Nieders, have departed, and inferior scholars occupy their places. As far as we can judge from this first specimen, the editor and his assistants belong to

the *Vermittelungs-theologic* school, one that can hardly stand, and without permanent vitality. The articles here are on the origin of Monachism, Bernard of Clairvaux, and the rise of the Lutheran Church. The last, which is the largest, is by Ritschl, whose excellence as a dogmatic theologian is universally acknowledged. Ecclesiastical history, however, is not his forte, and his book on the old Catholic Church does not satisfy the requirements of the subject at the present time. The critical survey of books on ecclesiastical history, during 1875, by Harnack, is excellent. Different *Analecta* conclude the Heft. It is intended that four parts should be issued yearly, at the cost of sixteen marks. We shall look for future numbers with longing desire, and trust that the new periodical may be successful. The subjects treated in the first instalment are not of much interest to English readers, nor are they handled with a scientific grasp. The effort after a popular style, as well as their juvenile-like character, are a drawback to some of them.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

BIRMINGHAM is erecting a really noble monument to Shakspeare, in the shape of a Memorial Library. Opened in April, 1868, it "now (December, 1875) contains 6,198 vols., of which the English number 4,214, French 327, German 1,354, Bohemian 38, Danish 70, Dutch 71, Frisian 2, Greek (Modern) 4, Hebrew 1, Hungarian 12, Italian 60, Polish 5, Russian 13, Spanish 11, Swedish 23, Tamil 1, Wallachian 1, Welsh 1." The Committee have sent us a volume which catalogues the 'English Shakspeariana.' It is something more than a bare list, containing now and then pertinent quotations, and may be found useful by the Shakspeare student elsewhere than at Birmingham. It is pleasant to see, lists of 'Articles in English Periodicals relating to Shakspeare and his Works,' and of 'Shakspearian Articles in the Principal Foreign Serials' are promised in coming volumes of the Catalogue. We must remark on the presence of one or two volumes—e.g., the 'Vision of Piers Ploughman'—that can scarcely be described as Shakspearian in any special sense; for the danger of the Library's degenerating into a general one should be carefully guarded against. Also, the quotations are not always judicious; e.g., that from Schlegel on p. 152:—"Meres was personally acquainted with the poet, and so very intimately that the latter read over to him his sonnets before they were printed." Those who remember Meres's words will see that Schlegel makes too much out of them.

In these days of professional book-making, Mrs. Rattray's *Country Life in Syria* (Seeley) is refreshing from the absence of all pretence to literary art which it displays. The authoress and her husband settled down to farming in the Lebanon, but thanks to unsympathetic and unscrupulous neighbours, and to Turkish "government," the speculation turned out a failure. Both husband and wife had stout hearts and frank characters, and these form the worst provision in the world against the scoundrelism of Turkish officials, which can only be encountered on equal grounds by lying and chicanery. An Englishman arriving fresh in the East is naturally prone to regard an Ottoman Governor-General, of practically unlimited power, with a certain respectful awe; and if he happen to hold a *firman* obtained from some one in high office at Constantinople and backed up with "orders" from the said Governor-General to grant him all sorts of immunities and privileges, he is apt on the strength of such recommendations to consider himself a fortunate personage, and to imagine that he can go about in safety, and transact his business with comfort and security. The present little work exposes the fallacy of such conceptions, and will be valuable if it deters other would-be emigrants from similar dangerous experiments. Although consisting of numerous heterogeneous scraps of information thrown together without any order, Mrs. Rattray's letters contain much that is amusing, and give a very fair picture of life in Syria.

*Iron and Steel*, by Mr. C. Hoare, published by Messrs Crosby Lockwood & Co., is a little book printed in the unusual form of a surveyor's or mechanic's note book, which fully justifies its claim to contain ready, useful, and trustworthy information for iron masters and their servants, iron ship and bridge builders, engineers of all classes, architects, surveyors, builders, and draughtsmen. That the public addressed by the book is numerous as well as special is shown by the appearance of the present, being the eighth, edition. It is a handy and trustworthy little volume.

We have on our table *The Second German Reader*, by A. L. Meissner, Ph.D. (Low),—*French Verbs*, by J. Menard (Williams & Norgate),—*Medico-Legal Experience*, by K. McLeod, A.M. M.D. (Calcutta Central Press Company),—*Roman History*, by W. W. Capes, M.A. (Longmans),—*Aunt Charlotte's Stories of Greek History*, by C. M. Yonge (Marcus Ward),—*England a Continental Power*, by L. Creighton (Longmans),—*Statistical Sketch of South Australia*, by J. Boothby (Low),—*Alaire*, by Voltaire, edited by Prof. T. Karcher, LL.B. (Longmans),—*Annotated Poems of English Authors: The Traveller*, by Oliver Goldsmith, edited by Rev. E. T. Stevens and Rev. D. Morris, B.A. (Longmans),—*A Parallel between Goethe and Schiller*, by L. Pagel (Liverpool, Williams),—*The Boudoir Shakspeare*, edited by H. Cundell (Low),—*The Regent*, by J. M. Chanson (Samuel Tinsley),—*Vivisection* (Smith, Elder & Co.),—*Our Medicine Men*, by H. S. Constable (Kingston-upon-Hull, Leng & Co.),—*The History of Free Trade in Tuscany*, by J. M. Stuart (Cassell),—*East London Industries*, by W. G. Croy (Longmans),—*Cup and Platter*, by G. O. Drewry, M.D., and H. C. Bartlett (King),—*How to Farm Profitably*, by J. J. Mechi (Routledge),—*The Story of a Vocation* (New York Catholic Publication Society),—*The First Ten Years of a Sailor's Life at Sea* (Low),—*All Around the Moon*, by J. Verne, translated by E. Roth (New York Catholic Publication Society),—*Alexander the Great*, by J. Mead (Stock),—*Sacred Poems*, by J. Morel (Gardner),—*Village Verses*, by Guy Roslyn (Moxon),—*Leaves of Hope*, by S. Savill (Provost),—*The Great Problem, can it be Solved?* by J. Gleig, M.A. (Blackwood),—*Anglican Church Portraits*, by J. G. Rogers, B.A. (Clarke),—*Man in the Image of God*, by H. G. Robinson, M.A. (Macmillan),—*A Popular Commentary on the New Testament*, Vol. IV., by D. D. Whedon, D.D. (Hodder & Stoughton),—*The Expositor*, edited by Rev. S. Cox (Hodder & Stoughton),—*Disestablishment*, by G. Harwood, M.A. (Macmillan),—*The Christian Doctrine of Sin*, by J. Tulloch, D.D. (Blackwood),—*De l'Italie, Essais de Critique et d'Histoire*, by E. Gebhart (Hachette),—and EPMHNEIA EIS THN KAINHN ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗΝ, by N. M. Damala, Vol. I. (Athens). Among New Editions we have *The Physiology of Mind*, by H. Maudsley, M.D. (Macmillan),—*Pleasure*, by N. Michell (Tegg),—*Mr. Wynward's Ward*, by H. Lee (Smith, Elder & Co.),—*Rum Rhymes*, by W. A. Chandler (Brown),—*The Vulture Maiden*, by W. Von Hilern, translated by C. Bell and E. F. Poynter (Low),—and *Outlines of the Religion and Philosophy of Swedenborg*, by T. Parsons, LL.D. (Speirs).

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Theology.*  
Baker's (Rev. W.) Manual of Devotion for Schoolboys, 2/6 cl.  
Hall's (Rev. J.) Memorials of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers, 3vo. 3/6 swd.  
Haslam's (Rev. W.) Threefold Gift of God, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Homilet, edited by Dr. Thomas, Enlarged Editor's Series, Vol. 1, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Will's (Rev. F. C.) Sermons in St. Agatha's Chapel, 12mo. 5/ cl.  
*Law.*  
Dun's (J.) British Banking Statistics, 8vo. 5/ cl.  
*Poetry.*  
Arnold's (T.) Selections from Pope, 12mo. 2/6 cl.  
Blount's (Lady C.) Old Palace, and other Poems, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Lytton's (Robert Lord) Fables in Song, Vol. 1, 12mo. 6/ cl.  
*History.*  
Pearson's (C. H.) English History in 14th Century, 2/6 cl.  
Yonge's (C. M.) Eighteen Centuries of Beginning of Church History, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.

## Geography.

Cook's Tourist's Handbook of the Black Forest, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Johnson's (L.) Physical Geography of British Empire, 2/6 cl.  
Van Campen's (S. R.) Dutch in the Arctic Seas, Vol. 1, 8vo. 12/  
White's (W.) Holidays in Tyrol, 8vo. 14/ cl.

## Philology.

Haas's (Dr. E.) Catalogue of Sanskrit and Pali Books in  
British Museum, 4to. 21/ cl.  
Mathew's (W.) Words, their Use and Abuse, cr. 8vo. 9/ cl.  
Sidgwick's (A.) Introduction to Greek Prose Composition, 5/  
Science.

Tilden's (W. A.) Introduction to Study of Chemical Philo-  
sophy, 12mo. 3/6 cl.

## General Literature.

Afloat and Ashore with Sir Walter Raleigh, 12mo. 2/ cl.  
Dates and Data relating to Religious Anthropology, 5/ cl.  
Drill Book for Royal Naval Volunteers, 16mo. 1/6 cl. Imp.  
German Home Life, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Hardy's (Lady D.) Paul Wynter's Sacrifice, 12mo. 2/ bds.  
(Select Library of Fiction.)  
Legend of Potlitzers, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Potter's (F. S.) Song Mead, 12mo. 5/ cl.  
Purdy's (W.) The City Life, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Roslyn's (G.) George Eliot in Derbyshire, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Saunders's (J.) Bound to the Wheel, new edit. cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.

## THE NORNS WATERING IGGDRASIL.

(FOR A PICTURE.)

WITHIN the unchanging twilight  
Of the high land of the gods,  
Between the murmuring fountain,  
And the Ash-tree, tree of trees,  
The Norns, the terrible maidens,  
For ever come and go.

Iggdrasil the populous Ash-tree,  
Whose leaves embroider heaven—  
Fills all the grey air with music—  
To gods and to men sweet sounds,  
But speech to the fine-eared maidens  
Who evermore come and go.

That way to the doomstead thrones  
The Aesir ride each day,  
And every one bends to the saddle  
As they pass beneath the shade;  
Even Odin, the strong All-father,  
Bends to the beautiful maidens  
Who cease not to come and go.

The tempest crosses the high boughs,  
The great snakes heave below,  
The wolf, the boar, and antlered harts  
Delve at the life-giving roots,  
But all of them fear the wise maidens,  
The wise-hearted water-bearers  
Who evermore come and go.

And men far away in the night-hours  
To the north-wind list'ning, hear,  
They hear the howl of the wear-wolf,  
And know he hath felt the sting  
Of the eyes of the potent maidens  
Who sleeplessly come and go.

They hear on the waves of the north wind  
A sound as of three that sing,  
And the skald, in the blue mist wand'ring  
High on the midland fell,  
Heard the very words of the o'ersong  
Of the Norns who come and go.

But alas for the ears of mortals  
Chance-hearing that fate-laden song!  
The bones of the skald lie there still,—  
For the speech of the leaves of the Tree  
Is the song of the three Queen-maidens  
Who evermore come and go.

WILLIAM B. SCOTT.

## AN INDIAN INSTITUTE AT OXFORD.

Oxford, July 3, 1876.

In continuation of my letter which appeared in  
your last number, I proceed to give a brief account  
of my two other objects in visiting India.

The first of these was to interest the natives in  
the proposal for founding an Indian Institute at  
Oxford. I have long thought that we ought to  
have at Oxford some material representative of  
Oriental studies, some outward and visible sign of  
our interest in India,—some special University  
building, containing lecture-rooms, library, and  
museum, to serve as a centre of intercourse,  
inquiry, and instruction for all engaged in Indian  
studies. Such a building is required as a rallying-  
point for all students of the University destined  
for Indian careers, especially for the selected  
Indian civilians, who are not to be collected in  
any single college. It is also required to meet

the needs of students from India, who already  
frequent our University, and who, so soon as an  
Indian School for Degrees is established, are likely  
to study at Oxford in greater numbers. The  
Institute ought to be presided over by curators  
who have resided in the East, and who will be  
willing to reside in Oxford both in term time and  
vacation, and to superintend the welfare of all  
members of the University studying with a view  
to work in India. It ought to have Oriental Pro-  
fessorships, Fellowships, and Scholarships con-  
nected with it, and might give prizes for essays on  
Oriental subjects. I have already collected in  
India a number of books and interesting objects  
to form the nucleus of a library and museum, and  
during my tour I succeeded in interesting some of  
the more enlightened Mahārājas in the idea of  
founding Scholarships to enable young Indians to  
study in England. Moreover, in most of the  
large towns where I explained the project of the  
Institute, it was cordially supported by the edu-  
cated natives, and by all the most influential  
Europeans; and committees were formed to aid  
in carrying it into operation, so soon as the Uni-  
versity of Oxford has given a site, and sanctioned  
the erection of a building. It should be clearly  
understood, however, that although the founding  
of an Indian School and Indian Institute are two  
schemes that are naturally interdependent, they  
are yet quite independent of each other. Even if  
the Indian School is not established at present,  
the project for the Institute may proceed inde-  
pendently, and I hope that the necessary funds  
for founding it will be raised without much  
difficulty.

My third object in going to India was a more  
selfish one. I wished to collect accurate informa-  
tion on various subjects connected with the duties  
of the Boden Chair. I have spent four months  
travelling in India, and have traversed thousands  
of miles between the cities of Bombay, Ahmeda-  
bid, Poona, Calcutta, Benares, Delhi, Lucknow,  
Lahore, and Jummoo, and have gained more correct  
knowledge in that period than I could have gained  
in a whole lifetime in England.

My principal aim was to make inquiries with  
regard to the tenets and practices of various sects;  
and first with regard to those of the *S'āktas* (a *S'aiva*  
sect), whose sacred works are the *Tantras*. Very  
little is known in Europe about the contents of  
these books. It is, perhaps, the only department  
of Sanskrit literature that presents almost unbroken  
ground. Of the sixty-four original *Tantras*, not  
a single one has been published in Europe, not  
even in Germany, though there are many manu-  
scripts in London, Oxford, and elsewhere. The  
most important of them, or, at least, the one most  
frequently quoted, is called the '*Rudra-Yāmala*,' a  
considerable portion of which is in the Bodleian.  
I tried to find a complete copy in India, but did  
not succeed, which is, perhaps, not surprising, as  
it consists of a hundred thousand verses. Sections  
of it are common enough, but no one could show  
me an entire copy.

I brought home with me two or three MSS.  
of shorter *Tantras*, which come next in importance  
to the '*Rudra-Yāmala*,' and I hope either to print  
them or give an analysis of them before long.  
They are generally in the form of a dialogue be-  
tween the god *S'iva* and his wife, the latter in-  
quiring as to the correct mode of performing certain  
secret rites, or as to the magical efficacy of various  
texts used as spells for producing and averting  
evils, while her husband instructs her. The  
*S'āktas*, who found their doctrines on these works,  
are given to very licentious practices. Whether  
the *Tantras* are really meant to contain indecent  
allusions is doubtful. It is certain that they  
dwell on the supposed mystical relationship be-  
tween the male and female energies, but it is pos-  
sible that indecent ideas are not more necessarily  
involved in such mysticism than in the symbols  
of the *Lingam* and *Yoni*, found everywhere in  
India.

The next sect about which I prosecuted in-  
quiries was the *Vallabhāchārya*, a *Vaishnava* sect,  
who found their doctrines on the mystical con-

nexion between Krishna and the Gopis, as  
set forth in the *Bhāgavata Purāna*, and *Prem*  
*Sāgar*, and who are also given to licentious prac-  
tices. Disgusted with their gross corruption of the  
*Vaishnava* doctrines, a reformer called *Swāmi*-  
*Nārāyana* arose about fifty years ago, and founded  
a Puritan *Vaishnava* sect in the West of India,  
which is now rapidly increasing and doing much  
good. I went to the great meeting of the *Swāmi*-  
*Nārāyana* at their head-quarters, *Wartāl*, on the  
full moon of the month *Kārtik*, and had much  
conversation with their leading men, who pre-  
sented me with a book called '*S'ikshā-Pātri*,' con-  
taining a summary of their tenets. They lay  
great stress on temperance, chastity, and purity  
of life.

Other sects that interested me greatly were those  
of the *Brahma-Samāj*, or *Indian Theists*. Their  
chief leader is the well-known *Keshab Chandra*  
*Sen*. His society is established at Calcutta, but  
endeavours to make proselytes all over India,  
and is called the *Progressive Samāj*. They corre-  
spond very nearly to our Unitarians, and reject  
the *Veda* altogether.

Next to them comes the *Calcutta Adi-Samāj*, the  
leader of which is *Debendra Nāth Tagore*. This  
society is a continuation of the original body of  
*Hindū Reformers*, founded by *Rām Mohun Roy*,  
and appeals to the *Vedas* as the basis of its mono-  
theistic teaching. I was present at one of their  
Sunday meetings at Calcutta, and heard a sermon  
preached by one of their leaders. There is another  
highly interesting society of *Theists* in Bombay,  
called the *Prārthana-Samāj*, or *Prayer Society*, one  
of whose services I attended. A sermon was  
preached by *Prof. Bhāndārkar* from a text in the  
*Katha Upanishad*. This society appears to be  
connected with the *Samāj* of *Keshab Chandra Sen*.  
The inscription over the door of their *Mandir*, or  
meeting-house, is "*Satyam eva jayate. Ekam eva*  
*dviṭiyam*."—"Only Truth is victorious. There is  
but one God, and no second."

A new reformer, named *Dayānanda Sarasvati*  
*Swāmi*, called on me while I was at Bombay, and  
impressed me greatly with his powers: he seemed to  
me a very able and remarkable man. He has lately  
founded a new *Samāj*, called the *Arya-Samāj*, and  
I heard him preach at one of its meetings. He is  
now engaged in printing an entirely new commen-  
tary on the *Rig Veda*, in which he tries to show  
that *Sāyana's* interpretation is generally wrong,  
and that the hymns are all addressed to one God  
under different names.

Let me state, in conclusion, that I visited many  
colleges and schools in India, and found my way,  
with the help of kind friends, to the *Sanskrit Tols*  
at *Nuddea*, now rather difficult of access. My  
impression is that these ancient and interesting  
institutions for the teaching of *Sanskrit* are  
decaying, and that the old style of *Pandit* trained  
in them is gradually dying out. I certainly found  
specimens of this once common type of scholar-  
men who can repeat the *Vedas*, *Brāhmanas*,  
*Upanishads*, *Pāṇini*, and the *Mahābhāṣya* by  
heart, and who perfectly astonished me by their  
powers of memory. I made them recite portions  
of the *Rig Veda* with what is believed to be the  
correct accentuation, and I was much surprised  
to find that the voice is not raised in pronouncing  
the syllables supposed to have the *Udāta* accent.  
The only accents marked by the voice are those  
marked in writing, viz., the *Anudāta* and *Svarita*.  
At one of the principal *Tols*, a celebrated *Pandit*  
was engaged in teaching the *Nyāya* philosophy  
to a class of pupils from every part of India.  
I found them using *Prof. Cowell's Kusumāñjali*.  
The other *Nuddea Tols* appeared to me to be  
languishing, if not decaying. Nevertheless, I am  
convinced that the study of *Sanskrit* is on the  
increase both in India and in Europe. Numbers  
of *Pandits* may be found everywhere—frequently,  
however, trained according to the European  
method. Although your Correspondent thought  
it right to call in question the truth of my assertion  
at the *Royal Asiatic Society's* meeting, that  
*Sanskrit* is spoken fluently by learned men all  
over India, I persist in that allegation notwith-

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standing. Sanskrit is certainly called a dead language, and in some respects correctly so termed; but it lives and breathes in the speech of the people, and has besides a life of its own which is not entirely artificial. Its praises have lately been sounded in many quarters. It has been justly extolled for its wonderful literature, for its bearing on the spoken languages of our Eastern Empire, and for having furnished Europe with the key to Comparative Grammar. Able Correspondents of newspapers have even recommended its introduction into our colleges and public schools as a valuable element in education, and as one of the best of all mental disciplines. Indeed, it should not be forgotten that Sanskrit is the property of the whole Aryan race, not merely of the Hindus; and that it represents, better than any other language, the form of speech once spoken in the original primeval home of Europeans as well as Indians. When our Universities can be brought to the point of acknowledging this fact, they will probably admit it definitely into their curriculum, and the public schools must then follow their lead. For my own part, I have no doubt whatever that the day is approaching when Sanskrit will be as much studied as Greek, and even occupy the foremost rank throughout Europe as the best instrument of linguistic training,—the one typical scientific language, whose structure is a master-key to the structure of all other languages.

MONIER WILLIAMS,  
Boden Professor of Sanskrit.

\*.\* There is only one remark which there is any occasion for making about Prof. Monier Williams's interesting letters, and that is with regard to Sanskrit as a spoken language. We never denied it was spoken; indeed we expressly stated that "professional pundits" did speak it. But we do deny that it is spoken more than Latin or Greek is spoken. What would we think of a man who cited the use of Latin in Roman Catholic services as a proof of the present vitality of oral Latin? That some learned Brāhmins speak Sanskrit all know; that the seven vernaculars (*Prakrits*) of Northern India are vivified by Sanskrit, as they are the offspring of the great Aryan tongue, all know also. But has not Latin almost precisely the same influence over many European languages of to-day?

#### THE GREAT LORD FAIRFAX.

THERE has recently been added to the Bodleian Library a somewhat interesting MS. volume. It comprises various letters, memorials, &c., of the Fairfax family, copied into a book by Mary Arthington, daughter of the great Lord Fairfax, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Parliament of England—her to whom Andrew Marvell was tutor, and who, by her second marriage, became Duchess of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles the Second. Most of the letters are addressed to the copyist, either in her maiden or first married name, by three of her sisters, and other members of the family. There are twenty-five from Frances Widdrington, exclusive of one duplicated (apparently from forgetfulness), fourteen from Dorothy Hutton, and two from Elinor Selby. Also two from Thomas Fairfax, brother to Mary; one from Charles Fairfax, her uncle; one from Frances Legard, her niece; one from Thomas Widdrington, her brother-in-law; and one from Sarah Coyne. Also five from Lady Fairfax to her husband, the General. Also "A Funeral Oration on the Honorable Lady Frances Widdrington," delivered May 5, 1649, eighteen pages in length; a Poem on the same by "Rich. Booker"; two Epitaphs or Acrostics on the same by "Fran. Lenton, Gent."; verses by "Jo. Frayour, York, May 25, 1649"; and an "Elegy on the death of Mrs. (Miss) Dorothy Widdrington, eldest daughter of the Lady Frances, late deceased, by S. Smith." In all there are fifty-eight documents.

The book was a shabby quarto, in worm-eaten calf, once hasped, with dislocated covers, and coarse, thickish paper; and is not half-filled, for it contains 213 blank pages and 142 written ones. The

chirography is rusty and perpendicular, and occasionally much blotted, though possessing a certain quaint grace, especially at the beginning, before the copyist became careless. The small letters are about a quarter of an inch long. What punctuation there is consists mainly of commas, used instead of full stops. The volume has since been re-bound.

The letters are of various and no dates, ranging from 1635 to 1671, and written from various places, principally London and York. They relate almost exclusively to family affairs—to births, deaths, lyings-in, sickness, mutual affection, and religion. Some are entirely devoted to the latter subject. Mary Arthington, whose autograph appears on the fly-leaf, obviously copied them, together with the other documents, into the volume, as a means of preserving such interesting family memorials. They give a pleasant and sometimes affecting picture of the domestic relations of the Fairfaxes, a family distinguished in war, letters, and diplomacy; and of the wholesome kindly and conscientious life of the English gentry in the seventeenth century. There are but few political allusions in them, though, in letter the second, Frances Widdrington pities her sister Mary because she "must part with her dear husband in these parrilous times," and is sorry she cannot invite her (to "Yorke the 28th of—1640"), "for truly we have some thoughts of flying with our poore little ones we know not whither"; and mentions Wentworth. In No. 7 (not dated but evidently written from London) Mrs. Widdrington speaks of her husband being "at the hall," probably Westminster. In 8 (the duplicated one), dated "Yorke, Dec. 11, 1639," she has been, that day, at the "sollem sad funerall" of Lady Hoyle, who died suddenly. In 17, writing again from York, Jan. 20, 1642, she states that correspondence "is not now safe: troubles are again upon us, and greater expected every day." And in 26, dated March 23, 1646, she condole on the death of "our dear Father (obviously her husband's father and her father-in-law, for Fairfax lived to assist the Restoration, going to the Hague as chief representative of the Parliament, to carry its invitation to the King) taken away from the evils coming upon this poor land." As we have seen, Lady Frances Widdrington only survived till May, 1649; for, on the 15th of that month, her late husband, Thomas, writes a touching letter to his "dear Sister," Mary Arthington, on the decease of his wife in child-birth, the baby being still-born.

But the gems of the collection are the five letters to her husband from Lady Fairfax—the redoubtable Presbyterian and Royalist dame, who, it may be remembered, accompanied the General to the field, and falling into the hands of the enemy, was chivalrously sent back to Fairfax by the Marquis of Newcastle, in his own coach, escorted by a troop of Royalist horse; and who lived to insult the Regicide judges at Charles's trial, by exclaiming, "He has too much sense to be here!" when her absent husband's name was called. In these purely domestic letters, she appears, not as a partisan or zealot, but as a most careful and loving English wife. It is an exquisite portrait, unconsciously self-painted. The letters are as follows, *verbatim et literalim*.

T. B. GUNN.

"My Mother's Letters to my Father.

"Deare Sweet heart

"I haue receiued your letter in which I perceiue you haue bene very sicke I am sory to heare it, I pray let me heare from you as soone as you can for I shall thinke it long till I heare in the meane time I will pray for your good health I would desire you not to stire out too soone I giue you many kinde thanks for your loue & care over me which am not at this time very well but I thanke god our little ones are all well so sweet heart hoping of your amendment I rest

"Your obedient and louing wife

"MARY FAIRFAX."

"good sweet heart

"I haue lived in hopes the parliament would haue been short but methinks it

hath been long & I feare the worst yet it may be you will get leaue to come downe but I feare not long enough. I pray god send you your health and us a joyfull meeting both in this world & in the world to come. I perceiue your care of me both by your letters & other wayes for which I haue to thanke you which I will lay up in my heart and will study to deserue it if it please god to giue me leaue. I haue receiued the rent of Billbrough & of my father the causes of expences hath beene much your land-lady had for rent a 11l. 8s. & I am to buy a couple of kye the rest I shall make you a reconing when you come home & please god according to my simplicitie I will spend nothing but what needs must. I am at this time with my father & ursley with me, Franke & the mades at Skough the little one with her Nurse, I thanke god she mends verue well, good sweet heart send me word whether you would haue me at home or if you will I had as leaue be at home for I feare our charge is no less for my being here & our household afaires goes not so well forward as they should, for my owne contentment I should be as well there as here till your coming home though I be made more of than I deserue. your horse mends very fast, about a fortnight hence he will be ready to go to grasse if you please, for he hath spent a great many of oates besides Anniseeds & bread but it is well bestowed on him for he likes very well thus hoping that this will be the last letter till I see you remembering my loue to you & desiring your blessing to your little ones & your loue to myself I reste

"Your very louing and dutyfull wife

"MARY FAIRFAX."

"deare Sweet heart

"I am very glad to heare you are well, my father & Mother & all my little ones are well also if I could haue receiued a letter I should haue taken it very kindly, I heard you expected one by gorge Brethed but the time was so short & I not very well that did hinder me and for my minde and heart they are (blot) -thing more at quiet my comfort is I desire to serue the Lord though I finde nothing in me able to performe my desire but I will trust in him, my lord was saying you may haue Towston\* if you will & for my coming home when please you, I should be very glad to see you so remembering my dearest loue to you I rest

"Your louing & obedient wife

"MARY FAIRFAX."

"deare sweet heart

"I thanke you for your letter wherein I finde my father's bounty to you I am very glad to heare of it & I shall thinke myself much bound to him for it, I feare you will stand in need of it all some 3 pound of it is left behind & please god it shall not be spent in anything but what is needfull & for other things in the house my best care shall not be wanting, I perceiue you set forward next Munday I pray god send you a happy journey & your helth & I hope all things will be well, I pray remember my duty to my father & Mother & I hope it will not be long before there coming god be praised our little ones are very well & all other things at this time thus remembering my hartly loue to your selfe I rest

"Your louing & obedient wife

"MARY FAIRFAX."

"Sweet heart

"For feare you should thinke it for want of loue or forgetfulnes I write these few lines as witness of my true louing affection which I hope to god he will euer giue me grace to cary myselfe as a dutifull wife to you thus hoping you will take these few lines written in good part & desiring god to send you your health & giue you grace to serue him with an vpright heart I commit you to god's protection & resteth

"your louing & dutifull wife

"till death

"MARY FAIRFAX."

\* Evidently a horse named after the Battle of Towton, in Yorkshire, during the Wars of the Roses.

## THE HITTITES AND THE MAONITES.

Beverton Rectory, Tebbury, June, 1878.

THERE is a possible link of historical association between the Hittites and the Lydians which I do not remember to have seen noticed, and of which it may be useful for your correspondents to be reminded.

In Judges x. 11, 12, there is a list of the nations with whom the Israelites had been at war up to the time of Jephtha, and among these nations the "Maonites" are mentioned. From the narratives in Exodus, Numbers, and Judges, we are also able to make a list, and, placing the two side by side, it seems as if the Maonites were identical with the people over whom Chushan Rishathaim was king. Thus:—

Judg. x. 11, 12.	Exod., Numb., and Judges.
Egyptians . . . .	Egyptians.
Amorites . . . .	Amorites.
Ammonites . . . .	Moabites, Ammonites, and Amalekites.
Philistines . . . .	Philistines.
Zidonians . . . .	Under Jabin.
Amalekites . . . .	Midianites and Amalekites.
Maonites . . . .	Mesopotamians under Chushan Rishathaim.

Chushan Rishathaim is called a king of Mesopotamia, but he is unknown among the kings of Assyria, and was probably sovereign of that great but mysterious kingdom which lay between the Euphrates and Asia Minor, and which seems to be that of the Hittites both in the Assyrian and the Egyptian records. This kingdom evidently had its chief centres at Carchemish and Damascus, and extended at least over the northern districts of Palestine; part of it being also called Aram Naharaim, or "Mesopotamia."

Now the Lydians, on the west of this territory, claimed on the one hand to be descended from the "Meonians," and on the other to have founded kingdoms in Mesopotamia. They also claimed to be the founders of the Etruscan nation. (Rawl. 'Anc. Mon.,' ii. 402.)

Is there a probability that the Syrians of early patriarchal times, the Hittites of the Egyptians and the Assyrians, and the Mesopotamians and Maonites of the Judges, are all one and the same people?

And, if so, is it not further probable that when the Hittites were overpowered by the Assyrians, part of them migrated into Asia Minor to become "Lydians," of whom a portion afterwards migrated still further westward to become Etruscans?

The residuum would, I conceive, amalgamate with the conquering Assyrians, and become the great Syrian nation of which we read so much in the times of the Kings of Israel.

If some one will favour us with a 'History of the Hittites' from Egyptian and Assyrian sources, we shall probably be introduced to a hitherto all but unknown empire of ancient times.

It would be curious if the result of further researches should show that the Roman conquerors of Palestine were in some degree representatives of Chushan Rishathaim and the Hittites—the first invaders of that country after it came into the hands of the Israelites.

J. H. BLUNT.

## A LETTER OF CHARLES DICKENS.

The following characteristic letter, written by Charles Dickens to Peter Cunningham, has come into my possession from the Addington Collection, sold a little time ago at Sotheby's. It occurs to me that you may consider it of sufficient interest to give it a place in your columns. The "Bowl of Punch" refers to a semi-antiquarian article by P. C., which appeared in *Household Words*, 11th of June, 1853. A similar allusion to the roses, fountains, and clocks will be found in the fourth chapter of the third volume of 'The Life.'

T. F. DILLON CROKER.

Château des Mollineux, Rue Beaurefaire, Boulogne, Friday, Twenty-fourth June, 1853.

MY DEAR CUNNINGHAM,—

A note—Cerberus like—of three heads. First, I know you will be glad to hear that the Manager is himself again. Vigorous, brown, energetic, muscular—the pride of Albion and the admiration of Gaul. Secondly, I told Wills, when I left home,

that I was quite pained to see the end of your excellent Bowl of Punch altered. I was unaffectedly touched and gratified by the heartiness of the original; and saw no earthly, celestial, or subterranean objection to its remaining, as it did not so unmistakably apply to me as to necessitate the observance of my usual precaution in the case of such references, by any means. Thirdly, if you ever have a holiday that you don't know what to do with, do come and pass a little time here. We live in a charming garden in a very pleasant country, and should be delighted to receive you. Excellent light wines on the premises, French cookery, millions of roses, two cows (for milk punch), vegetables cut for the pot and handed in at the kitchen-window, five summer-houses, fifteen fountains (with no water in 'em), and thirty-seven clocks (keeping, as I conceive, Australian time, having no reference whatever to the hours on this side of the globe).

I know, my dear Cunningham, that the British nation can ill afford to lose you; and that when the Audit Office mice are away, the cats of that great public establishment will play. But pray consider that the bow may be sometimes bent too long, and that over-arduous application even in patriotic service is to be avoided. No one can more highly estimate your devotion to the best interests of Britain than I; but I wish to see it tempered with a wise consideration for your own amusement, recreation, pastime. All work and no play may make Peter a dull boy, as well as Jack; and (if I may claim the privilege of friendship to remonstrate) I would say that you do not take enough time for your meals. Dinner, for instance, you habitually neglect. Believe me, this rustic repose will do you good. Winkles also are to be obtained in these parts, and it is well remarked by poor Richard that a bird in the Handbook is worth two in the bush. Ever cordially yours,

CHARLES DICKENS.

Peter Cunningham, Esq.

## THE BIBLE IN INDIA.

It may seem surprising, yet it is a fact, that, although mission operations have been carried on in Northern India for upwards of fifty years, yet no commentary on the entire New Testament has, up to the present time, been prepared and printed. The desirableness of such a work, with a view to fitting native converts for the office of the Christian ministry is self-evident. India cannot be fully evangelized by foreigners. If there were no other reason why this could not be, the expense connected with such an agency, if at all adequate to the work to be done, could not be borne by any section of the Christian Church. But, apart from that, it is evident, from the model presented to us in the labours of the Apostles, that they did not trust to themselves alone, but at once, after due preparation, admitted their converts to share with them the work of evangelizing. Some persons think that if in India we had, in this respect, imitated the Apostles more closely, the work would have been much further advanced than it is now, and, doubtless, this view of the case is worthy of serious consideration. Of course, the first and principal work was to render the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures into the chief languages of India. This, in the most favourable circumstances, could not be effected at once by a single translator, or a body of translators. The knowledge required, of the vernaculars into which it may be proposed to translate the Scriptures, is so great, that probably scarcely any one could be expected to possess it who had not made it a life-study. To have succeeded in producing an idiomatic version of the Old or New Testament must be cause for great joy and thankfulness. With the body of theological idiom thus supplied and stereotyped, it then becomes a possibility to execute a successful commentary on the various portions of the sacred Scriptures. It commends itself to our judgment that a person of long and large experience in writing the Hindustani language, as editor of a vernacular paper for upward of twenty years, and afterwards as an author of

books on various subjects, and finally as editor and reviser of the entire Bible in Hindustani, completing three separate editions, should preferably be requested to prepare a commentary on the Bible in Hindustani.\* It seems as though the one work fitted into the other, and to a degree qualified for its right performance. There is one drawback, however; for length of experience is connected with length of life, and the tried and well-used labourer has necessarily ceased to be youthful, and so he lacks some qualities which are essential to his success. In such case the combination of youth with age is the course indicated, and in preparing this commentary, it is satisfactory to know that Prof. Cotton Mather, the son of the commentator, has kindly assisted in the work of proof-correcting from Matthew to Revelation.

The Annotated Paragraph Bible, of which the New Testament portion has been translated, was prepared in English by the Tract and Book Society, with the view of having it rendered into the principal vernaculars of India and Ceylon. In four of those languages the work was commenced; viz., Tamil, Marathi, Singhalese, and Hindustani. In two only has the New Testament been completed, viz., Tamil and Hindustani. That in Tamil has been executed by the Rev. W. T. Satyanadhan of the Church Missionary Society, and has been printed in the Tamil characters in Madras. By the last mail, information has reached the Society that the entire edition of 2,000 copies has been sold in the short space of three months. The translation occupied Satyanadhan for five years, but probably, as it is not stated that he gave up his other duties, only his spare time was employed in the work. The Hindustani commentary was completed in two years, the commentator regarding that as his substantive employment.

As this translation was undertaken at the special request of the North India Tract and Book Society, it seemed wise, when the Four Gospels had been completed and put to press, to send copies of the work to the Tract Society, and specially to such members of it as had had much experience in rendering into Hindustani, and who had also prepared commentaries on separate books of the New Testament. The gentlemen selected were the Rev. Mr. Fuchs, of the Church Missionary Society, who has written a commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, and the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, of the London Missionary Society, who has written a commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, and we understand that both of these gentlemen signified their entire approval of the work.

In a paper prepared by the Rev. Imám-ud-din, read at the Allahabad Missionary Conference, and subsequently printed, occurs this passage:—"Muhammadans want a commentary on the Bible. The original meaning of the Bible is given them now. Where have they power to get foreign idioms and similes explained? Hence it is seen that they understand the Bible very confusedly, and bring forward all kinds of stupid objections, which keep them from the truth. Such a commentary is necessary as would meet and put far away the objections raised in this country (India), would show the beauties of God's Word, and would solve all difficulties. English and German commentaries they cannot read, and the arguments of these books do not destroy these objections, although they show forth the beauty of the Word very well. Hence we want an abridged commentary, not a full one; and if the members of this Conference would but divide the Bible into parts, they would soon do it all."—"Report of the General Missionary Conference held at Allahabad," 1872-3, p. 53.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

BUCHANAN v. TAYLOR.

THE verdict of the jury in Buchanan v. Taylor can hardly be accepted as satisfactory, and many will wonder how it was arrived at. Mr. Buchanan's cross-examination scarcely helped his

\* The Annotated Paragraph Bible: The New Testament. Translated into Hindustani by the Rev. Dr. Mather. Printed in the Roman character at the expense of the Religious Tract Society. With 2 Maps.



case. Mr. Hawkins's address was more than usually brilliant. Mr. Justice Archibald, who cannot be suspected of any "fleshy" leanings, summed up strongly in favour of the defendant, inviting the jury to ask themselves whether the plaintiff, after what they had heard him admit in court, was the kind of person to whom damages ought to be given. It seemed to be the general opinion, when his Lordship concluded, that there would be either a verdict for the defendant, or else, possibly, a farthing for the plaintiff. Instead of this, the jury assessed the damage done to Mr. Buchanan's wounded feelings, honour, and reputation at 150*l*. Mr. Buchanan's friends may possibly claim this as a victory. It is not a very substantial one. The verdict, in effect, mulets Mr. Taylor heavily, while it is of very little pecuniary benefit, if any, to the plaintiff. It is amusing, however, to bear in mind what it actually was for which this *solutio* was awarded. We all know how Mr. Swinburne can hit out if he likes. That he was the writer of the fiercest of the three libels, 'The Devil's Due,' is admitted. Now, in this choice specimen of abuse, Mr. Buchanan is accused of puffing himself, of attacking rival poets under the mask of pseudonymity, of being the offspring of an incestuous union between Dulness and his sister, Envy, and of not being over particular about the truth. He is called a skulk, a shuffler, a "godson of Jonas Chuzzlewit," a "polypseudonymous lyrist and libeller of the gutter," and "a multifaceted idyllist of the gutter." For being called all this, a jury has given him 150*l*, being exactly three per cent. on the 5,000*l*, which he claimed. It may be doubted whether, if Mr. Tennyson, or Mr. Browning, or any of those better known poets with whom Mr. Buchanan loves to rank himself, had been directly accused in the *Examiner* of dishonourable conduct and downright falsehood, Mr. Taylor would not have had a good deal more to pay than 150*l*. This is all the more probable when we bear in mind that the defendant "justified"—as it is called—the libels in question. His fourth and fifth pleas—or, more exactly, the fourth and fifth paragraphs of his statement of defence—added injury to insult by declaring that every word which the *Examiner* had said of Mr. Buchanan was substantially true:—

"The defendant says that the articles alleged as libels in the Plaintiff's Statement of Claim were written and published for the public good, and are fair and *bona fide* comments on the critical and other writings of the plaintiff, and on his conduct as a critic, and in no way refer to the plaintiff's private character or conduct in private life. The defendant says that, before the publication of the said alleged libels, the plaintiff had, as a critic, written under certain assumed names divers criticisms on well-known authors, which criticisms were unfair; and that the plaintiff had under such assumed names referred to his own, the plaintiff's, works, and written of himself as amongst writers of the highest repute; and that the said alleged libels refer solely to the plaintiff's conduct herein, and in other such matters, and not to his character or conduct in private life, and that they are fair and *bona fide* comments on his conduct herein, and in other such matters, and were published for the public good."

As we have quoted the defendant's pleas, it is, perhaps, only fair to Mr. Buchanan to quote from his original statement of claim. After setting out 'The Devil's Due' in *extenso*, this extraordinary production of the pleader's art, which is touched up with a finish that suggests the revising hand of a poet rather than a mere draftsman, goes on to say, that

"The plaintiff says that the said letter was written, printed, and published with the malicious intention and purpose of injuring the plaintiff's position and reputation as a writer, and of defaming, vilifying, and abusing his personal character; and the plaintiff further says that the said letter was written, printed, and published in pursuance of a wicked and malicious scheme made and devised against the plaintiff as hereinafter de-

scribed; and with reference to the postscript to said letter above quoted, the plaintiff says that in the year 1871 the plaintiff prepared and handed to the editor of the *Contemporary Review* a criticism upon a certain school of poetry in England, with a request to the said editor to publish said criticism without any name, as the plaintiff was desirous of not introducing any personal feeling into a question of purely public and general interest. Immediately thereafter the plaintiff left London, and the editor of the said *Contemporary Review*, with the view of meeting the wish of the plaintiff, and at the same time preserving the uniformity of his magazine, in which a name is appended to each of the articles, printed plaintiff's said criticism with the name of Thomas Maitland appended thereto. This the editor did without the knowledge and without the consent of the plaintiff. The plaintiff afterwards explained the circumstances as aforesaid under which the name of Thomas Maitland had been thus appended to his paper aforesaid, and by said postscript the plaintiff says that it was intended and was understood by those by and to whom it was published to accuse the plaintiff of skulking, shuffling, and deceitful conduct with reference to said article, and of falsehood in his explanation aforesaid."

Turning over a page—for the document is a little volume in itself—we further find:—

"And the plaintiff says that in the course of his public duty as a critic and writer, he has had occasion to examine the works of certain writers of English verse, and to point out that some of the works of those writers were obscene, indecent, and offensive to sound moral and religious taste; and the plaintiff says that in revenge for said criticism, and for the purpose of injuring and destroying, as far as in them lay, the influence of the plaintiff as a writer, author, and critic, though the plaintiff had in said criticism confined his remarks to the works of said writers, and carefully avoided any reference to their private character, certain persons, both the said writers of verse and their friends, instigated and incited by the said writers of verse, have for a long time past, in several numbers and in several parts of many numbers of the said *Examiner*, persistently, unjustly, and maliciously abused, libelled, and defamed the plaintiff in his professional and personal character; and the defendant has deliberately, knowingly, and maliciously lent himself and his review, the *Examiner* aforesaid, to this malicious and wicked scheme for the purpose of abusing, vilifying, and defaming the plaintiff as aforesaid, to the plaintiff's great annoyance, hurt, and damage."

People who are interested in this quarrel may perhaps remember that Mr. Buchanan wrote in our columns, on the 16th of December, 1871,—Mr. Strahan "is best aware of the inadvertence which led to the suppression of my own name." It would now seem that there was no "inadvertence" at all in the matter, and that when Mr. Buchanan wrote to us, he knew perfectly well that he had given Mr. Strahan positive "instructions" to publish his article "without any name." But enough of this little discrepancy.

The trial itself was excessively amusing. Mr. Buchanan explained, or attempted to explain, that certain passages in Walt Whitman, which, on account of their excessive filthiness, were not read in court, but only shown to the jury, were quite consonant with the belief that that poet is a "colossal mystic," and essentially "a spiritual person." The jury read the passages in question—which are only to be found in the unpurged American edition—and it is to be hoped they were edified. Mr. Buchanan also declared upon his oath that when he wrote, in the 'Session of the Poets,' of Mr. Swinburne that that gentleman had a "neck stretching out like a gander," and that he had to be carried home drunk, he was referring solely to Mr. Swinburne's writings. To this statement he adhered, and Mr. Justice Archibald made some strong remarks upon it. Those, however, who like an exhibition "under the micro-

scope," will find Mr. Buchanan's cross-examination reported fully in the *Standard* and *Daily Telegraph*. Of the speeches of the counsel there is but little to be said, the most memorable incident being Mr. Russell's statement that "polypseudonymous" is "a Latin word"—a fact probably as new to philologists as it is to Mr. Swinburne that Phædra was a woman who conceived an incestuous passion for her son, and that the theme was first handled by Racine. The defendant was at a great disadvantage throughout. Wishing, for obvious reasons, to have the last word to the jury, Mr. Hawkins was unable to put in any evidence, and could only make use of such portions of Mr. Buchanan's works as were put in by his own counsel, amongst which, however, were the 'Session of the Poets' and 'White Rose and Red.' The jury were thus unable to judge of Mr. Buchanan by his letters to the *Athenæum*, or to form any opinion on the merits of his 'Little Milliner,' and his other "quasi-lyrical poems" or "tentatives." The defendant was ill advised to have a special jury. A common jury would possibly have found for him. The jury which actually tried the case was no doubt influenced by some such general considerations as that Mr. Swinburne has written a book of poems which scandalized many respectable people; that Mr. Taylor is a Radical who wants to abolish flogging; that Mr. Buchanan was a poor man fighting a rich; and that the *Examiner* is a Radical paper, suspected of Deism, if not, indeed, of something much worse. Guided by all these sage reasons, they gave Mr. Buchanan 150*l*, as some compensation for having been called a liar; and if that gentleman thinks such a result creditable, either to literature or to himself, he probably stands alone in his opinion.

#### Literary Gossip.

At this time, when "fortis Etruria" is all the vogue, and Mr. Smith's discoveries have added to the interest already felt on the subject, many will be glad to hear that Mr. George Dennis will bring out a new and thoroughly revised edition of the 'Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria' in a month or two. He has made a couple of journeys to the different sites recently.

MR. J. DENNIS proposes publishing, in the autumn, a volume to be called 'Studies in English Literature.' It will contain several essays on the Queen Anne men, and also on English poetry—the lyric, the sonnet, the ballad, &c.

THE Oratorians are about to publish the Diary of the College of Douai, from its first foundation. The work will be printed by subscription.

ON the nomination of the Trustees of the British Museum, Prof. Robert K. Douglas has been appointed British Delegate to attend the meeting of the International Congress of Orientalists, which is to be held in St. Petersburg in September next.

MR. G. BYRON CURTIS is about to retire from the acting editorship of the *Echo*, with which journal he has been connected for upwards of seven years. The paper is in future to be edited by the new proprietor, Mr. J. Passmore Edwards.

A TELEGRAPHIC announcement in the *Times*, a few days since, which mentioned the attempt that is being made to establish a free unsectarian university at Madrid, calls for comment. It will be in the remembrance of many that soon after Don Alfonso's accession to the throne, when Señor Orovis was Minister of Public Instruction, a most stringent decree was promulgated and resulted in the dismissal from the Royal

University of many of the most learned professors, who declined to accept a return to the legislation with reference to Catholic dogma and monarchical principles that existed prior to 1868. Several of these professors were violently treated and sent into exile, and all are deprived of their professorships and left without resources. They have appealed to the Council of State, and in the mean time have decided to open a *free* college, where education of the highest standard may be acquired without reference to creed or any interference with religious opinions. As the promoters say in their prospectus, "Cette institution est entièrement étrangère à tout esprit ou intérêt de communion religieuse, d'école philosophique ou de parti politique: elle proclame seulement le principe de la liberté et de l'inviolabilité de la science, et partant l'indépendance d'indagation et d'exposition, vis à vis n'importe quelle autorité, par la propre conscience du Professeur." Many shares have been subscribed for in and out of Spain, and when more publicity is given to the scheme, no doubt ample funds will be forthcoming.

THAT indefatigable scholar, Major Raverty, has nearly completed his translation of 'The Tabakāt-i-Nāsiri of Minhāj-i-Sarāj, Abū 'Umr-i-'Usmān, son of Muhammad-i-Minhāj, Al-Jurjāni,' which is published by the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The concluding *fasciculi*, which are now in the press, contain the last Section on the irruption of the Mughals and the conquest of Chingiz, whom erring mortals call Genghis Khān, and his sons. The notes will furnish a detailed account of the descent of the Mughal tribes, the Turks, and Tātārs, the Karā Khitā-is, and the Afrāsiyābi Khāns of Māwar-un-Nahr and Turkistān, from Oriental authors.

THE Early English Text Society has just issued to its members two short texts, forming the second issue of this year for the Original series. The earlier is a small collection of brief Anglo-Saxon poems, a rendering of Bede's poem, 'De die Judicii,' a paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, &c. The later is 'Emblemes and Epigrams,' by Francis Thynne, the Chaucer commentator, dated 1600 A.D., and illustrating his character. Mr. Lumby edits the first text, and Mr. Furnivall the second, in continuation of Thynne's 'Animadversions on Speght's Chaucer.'

IN 1845 the Abbotsford Club printed a volume of poems by Alexander Garden, of which the two principal portions are a reprint from a unique copy of his 'Garden of Grave and Godlie Flovres,' and 'The Theatre of the Scottish Kings.' In his Preface, the editor, Mr. Turnbull, mentioned the 'Scottish Worthies' by the author, and stated that it "belongs to the *Bibliotheca abscondita et deperdita* of our ancestors. No copy of it is known." Mr. David Laing, having discovered in the Auchinleck Library a manuscript copy of the lost book, suggested its publication by the Hunterian Club, together with the same author's 'Lyfe, Doings, and Death of R. R. William Elphinstone, the 23 Bishop of Aberdene, translated (into Scottish verse) out of the Lives of the Bishops of Aberdene, be Maister Hector Boes,' from the original unprinted manuscript in Mr. Laing's possession. The two works will be brought out under Mr. Laing's care, and the volume will contain

an Introduction by him, giving some account of Alexander Garden and his writings.

THE manuscript of 'The Scottish Worthies' is a small quarto of upwards of 170 pages, each page containing the name and a historical notice in prose of a particular Worthy, followed by three eulogistic stanzas of six lines. After an introductory address in two stanzas, 'To the Iudicious Reader,' the roll of Worthies begins with Ferchard, "Captane of Lorne." Of those who flourished about the period of the wars between Scotland and England, the names of John Stewart, "Lord of Boote"; Sir William Wallace, and Edward Bruce may be mentioned. Coming down to the Reformation period, may be noted Andrew Stewart, "Lord of Ocheltree," who died 1561, designated as "one trew professor of the Evangell, & of a good, godlie, & charitable life"; Gillespick Campbell, "Earle of Argyll," who died in 1573, represented as "a nobleman, religious, and most emulus of his predecessors noble valour & vertues"; Alexander Cunningham, "called the good Earle of Glencairne," who died 1574, styled "a nobleman, vertuous, Godlie, zealous, and very forward in the tyme of the Alteratione of the Religion"; and John, Lord Lyon of Glamis, who died in 1557, described "as a lover of Letters & a patron of Learned men." Turning to Garden's more immediate contemporaries we find David Lindsay thus characterized:—"Earle of Crawford, Lord Lindsay, a young Nobleman too much caried with the conceats of too young counsallors, mismanadged & cross caried the great estate of his noble forbears, and dyed the yeare 16—." But in the verses which follow, we are reminded by the author:—

Yet since sans blotts scarce any be that breath,  
Obliterate be thy o'reights after death.

John, Lord Ramsay, Viscount Haddington, &c. (who died in 1625)—the same nobleman on whom the Water Poet wrote a Funeral Elegy—is commemorated for the part he played in the Gowrie conspiracy, an event, in the eyes of our author, which

Gives both a glorie, grandor, and a grace  
To the and thine, and all the Ramsays Race.

"Mr. Alexander Boide" is thus introduced:—"A learn'd, virtuous, and weell dispos'd Gentleman, ane excellent poet qhrof manie records yet remains after his peregrinations Tuise almost through all europe. In the vigor of his aige depairted the yeare of Christ 1601."

THE forthcoming part of the *Journal* of the British Archæological Association will be found to contain, among other interesting papers on antiquarian subjects, an exhaustive treatise on the Wiccii, or Wiccias, by Mr. T. Morgan, F.S.A.; 'The Abbey of Evesham,' by the Rev. N. G. Batt; 'Elmley Castle,' by the Rev. H. Bennett; 'Documents in the Cathedral Library, Worcester,' by Mr. J. H. Hooper, M.A.; and 'Remarks on an Old Bell at Clapton-in-Gordano, with a List of Pre-Reformation Bells in Somersetshire,' by the Rev. H. M. Searth. The part also contains the Report of the Annual Meeting; Biographical Memoirs of L'Abbé Cochet, Mr. F. Morgan, Dr. Silas Palmer, Mr. E. Roberts, and Sir Gardner Wilkinson; the *Proceedings* of the Evesham Congress; and reviews of Conrad Merk's 'Kesslerloch Cavern,' C. Warne's

'Ancient Dorset,' E. Hübner's 'Inscriptiones Britannie Christiane,' and C. J. Palmer's 'Perlustration of Great Yarmouth.' Among the illustrations, those which have special claims of merit are the views of the "Roll-right Stones"; the fac-similes of early Saxon charters, and the carved redos of the Hamburg Lutheran Church at Little Trinity Lane, ascribed to Grinling Gibbons.

THE English Professorship at Berlin has fallen into the hands of a sound Early English scholar, Dr. Julius Zupitza, holder of the English chair at Vienna, editor of an *Altenglisches Lesebuch*, and the second version of the Romance of 'Guy of Warwick' for the Early English Text Society, &c.

THE war between Servia and Turkey has caused a very considerable demand for maps of the countries affected. So frequent were the inquiries for them at the beginning of the week, that two map-publishers quite sold out. Lithographers and printers were, however, speedily set to work, and the market is now becoming stocked. Meanwhile, the *Daily Telegraph* and *Weekly Dispatch* have issued "war-maps."

MR. DAYDON JACKSON has now completed the distribution of his reprint of Gerard's 'Catalogus,' 1596 and 1599. He has given an account of the author, with some hitherto unpublished matter, and to a literal reprint of the first edition is added the second edition, with modern names, and an index to this last affords a ready mode of learning what plants Gerard had in cultivation.

MR. D. BIKELAS has nearly passed through the press his Modern Greek translations of Shakspeare's 'Romeo and Juliet,' 'Othello,' and 'King Lear.'

WE hear that a project is afloat for the erection of a statue to the memory of the Scotch poet, Tannahill, at Paisley, the place of his birth.

THE *Giornale Napoletano*, a periodical which displays a fair acquaintance with English literature, begins, in its last number, a review of Mr. Tennyson's 'Queen Mary' as follows:—

"Se si avesse a definire con una frase questo volume, si direbbe che è l'eco artistica della polemica politico-religiosa dibattutasi l'anno scorso in Inghilterra, antesignano il Gladstone. Al famoso ex-primo ministro è succeduto il primo fra i viventi poeti Inglesi a propagare la causa dello Stato nazionale contro il Papato."

It is a pity the management of the Lyceum did not know all this a few months ago.

OUR Florentine Correspondent writes:—

"Prof. Paolo Mantegazza has just published a kind of anthropological romance, under the title of 'Il Dio Ignoto.' The book is making a great sensation.

"Prof. Domenico Berti, of the University of Rome, has published, for the first time complete, the two trials of Galileo, after the original and authentic text, and has added a splendid historical commentary. It is proved by M. Berti that Galileo really was condemned to the torture; but M. Berti supposes that the judge who condemned him was a man of kind feeling, and found the means of saving Galileo from the horrible punishment he would otherwise have had to endure."

THERE are now four candidates for the Professorship of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford Mr. T. Arnold, Mr. Earle, Mr. Metcalfe, and Mr. H. Sweet. The last-named is at present engaged on an Anglo-Saxon Reader, with a

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glossary and grammar, which is nearly through the press.

It is significant of the progress of "Spiritualism," so called, or "Spiritism," as some will have it, that a new edition—actually the twenty-fourth—of Allan-Kardec's 'Philosophie Spirituelle' has just been published at Paris. This is the same work that was translated by Miss Anna Blackwell, as noticed in our columns some time ago.

DURING the present month will be published a new trade journal, entitled *Cotton*. Its pages will be devoted to the interests of cotton producers and manufacturers.

ON Monday will be issued a pamphlet, by Mr. H. R. Fox Bourne, entitled, 'What is the War About?'

*Whitaker's Journal* has, we are sorry to hear, ceased to exist.

SOME weeks ago, as our readers may remember, we published an account of the remarkable confusion between the Two Providence Islands that has so long prevailed, and has at last been explained by Mr. Noel Sainsbury with singular acuteness and learning. Major-General Lefroy has since addressed to Mr. Sainsbury the following note, dated—

"Government House, Mount Langton,  
Bermuda, June 6, 1876.

"Permit me to return you my thanks in person for the very interesting communication I have received from you through my nephew, Mr. Arthur Rickards, respecting the Colony of Old Providence, and for the light your extracts throw upon its identification. It is certainly a curious circumstance that so great a degree of confusion has prevailed. Even the Colonial Office, in its short account of the Bahamas (C. O. List), attributes to New Providence what belongs to the earlier settlement. I now find that, in a very fine chart of the West Indies prefixed to Bryan Edwards's History, the St. Andrew's Island of modern charts is called St. Andrea, and certainly its identity with Andra-Henrietta ought not to have been a matter of any doubt. The settlement of Old Providence is connected in its early history with Bermuda by many relations. Capt. Wm. Sayle, Capt. Phil. Bell, Capt. Elfrith, were all settlers here,—the two first sometime Governors; and as this colony is also much connected with the first settlement (about 1649) of Segatos (afterwards called Eleuthera), one of the Bahamas, there were insuperable difficulties in old hypotheses of their identity."

FROM the official report of that State, we find that Kansas publishes 146 newspapers, twenty-six of which are dailies.

## SCIENCE

*Botanical Names for English Readers.* By Randal H. Alcock. (Reeve & Co.)

ONE supposed obstacle to the spread of botanical tastes among the general public is the barbarous and uncouth terminology which has to be encountered by the student at the outset. We say *supposed*, for we entertain a very strong opinion that the obstacle is no real bar to those whose inclination leads them to the study of plants. It may be, and doubtless is, an efficient hindrance to those who fancy they would like to know something of botany, if they could do so without taking any pains about the matter. But if so, then it is rather an advantage than otherwise to have such a barrier, as the progress of science would not

be likely to be advanced by such auxiliaries. Even in the case of pupils who, in order to comply with the regulations of some examining Board, take up botany, having no natural taste for it, the terminology *per se* does not materially add to the difficulty of the task, or increase the distaste for it. Nay, more, we have known many pupils almost revel in the pedantic terminology of human anatomy and botany. The words seemed to have had a special attraction for them. They have got them by heart, and have been ready with their explanations just as they would be with words learnt from a dictionary. We are far from instancing these matters in defence of the system of nomenclature and terminology codified by Linnaeus and extended and altered by every subsequent worker. We merely allude to them for the purpose of supporting our opinion that too much stress has been laid on the difficulties offered by the technical language of botany and, indeed, of other sciences.

Repetition and frequent use soon familiarize the most uncouth-looking words, and so we find such words as fuchsia, rhododendron, asparagus, geranium, made use of in ordinary conversation and writing without a thought that there is anything strange about them. Any attempt to substitute English names for such appellations as those above mentioned would be worse than useless, as the efforts in this direction made by such men as Lindley, Bentham, and Henslow plainly show. If, then, it be impracticable now to transform botanical terminology, the next best thing is to lessen its difficulties, and to help the beginner by giving a rational explanation of these unfamiliar words. This is what Mr. Alcock has, by no means unsuccessfully, endeavoured to do in the work before us. The latter half of the volume, of which we speak first, as it is the only portion indicated on the title-page, contains "the derivations and meanings of the scientific names of plants generally admitted into the British Flora as natives or colonists." We could have wished that Mr. Alcock had extended his programme, so as to include the commoner garden plants. A more important matter to our thinking is the manner in which he has cited his derivations. Take, for example: "agrophis," which the author tells us is derived from "a, not, and graph, write"; or, ampeloprasmus, from "ampelo, vine, and prason, a leek"; anthoxanthum, from "antho, flower, and xanthos, yellow"; cystopteris, from "cysto, bladder, and pteris, fern"; and so on. Such a method may not be misleading to a student already conversant with Greek; but one ignorant of that language would naturally, in the absence of explanation, accept the words, ampelo, antho, graph, cysto, as so many Greek words.

The accentuation adopted by Mr. Alcock is, in general, correct, though we find some common errors perpetuated, such as *rad'icans gigan'tea*. We believe the adoption of long and short marks of quantity would be of more service than the other systems of accentuation; for instance, there could be no mistake about *rad'icans* or *gigan'tea*.

Prefixed to the dictionary of plant-names is a slight sketch of the history of botany, from the earliest times to the Christian era. This has not much connexion with the objects of the book as indicated on the title-page; but it is pleasantly written, and will serve to supply

a particular class of readers with information on points which they could not otherwise so readily obtain. The chapter on "Arab Physicians," moreover, will be read with pleasure by the many whose means and opportunities are greater than those of beginners. The sketches of the botanists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are in general so slight as to be of little value. In a supplementary chapter, the author departs from his self-imposed rule of terminating his series of biographical notices with Linnaeus, and introduces a very brief account of "three illustrious botanists of our own country, who were contemporaries, were of world-wide repute, and who have not long since passed from us; I allude to Smith, Lindley, and Brown." It seems strange that while the name of Sir J. Smith is here included, that of Sir W. Hooker—a man of much higher position as a botanist—should have been omitted. The notices, however, are so very meagre and insufficient that we can hardly regret that the name and deeds of the elder Hooker are not here alluded to. Before quitting the subject, it may be allowable for us to ask why some enterprising botanist does not give us the lives of Brown, Hooker, and Lindley. These great men were contemporaries; they died within a few years each of the other, and their life history would form an almost complete history of botanical science in this country for the last seventy years or so.

*Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India.* Vol. I. Parts II. and III.

*Records of the Geological Survey of India.* Vol. VIII. Parts I., II., III., and IV. (Office of Government Printing, Calcutta.)

THE 'Memoirs' which we have recently received are devoted to the examination of the organic remains which have been discovered during the progress of the Geological Survey. Both Parts II. and III. deal with the Jurassic Fauna of Kutch. The illustrative lithographs which accompany the descriptive text are executed with great care, and are really beautiful drawings. The descriptions of these organic remains, by Dr. William Waagen, prove high-class powers of observation, while his remarks on the distinguishing peculiarities of the different species are remarkably clear, and his conclusions usually satisfactory.

The 'Records' contain the Annual Report of Dr. Oldham,—the Superintendent of this Geological Survey,—and sundry papers on the coal fields and the iron-producing district, with special descriptions of other districts now under survey or recently completed. A small map accompanies the Report, showing the present rate and general progress of the Survey. Prof. Oldham says it has ever been his anxious desire and aim to complete a general sketch-map of the geology of India. "The conviction," he says, "has grown stronger and stronger that, until this can be done, nothing really useful can be accomplished in the direction of very detailed geology, and that our progress must necessarily be slow and irregular, until we shall have been able to fix, even roughly, the boundaries between the known and the unknown." It is to be regretted that the labours of this well-trained Survey should be diverted from its great end, and what should be well-defined, labours, for the purpose of serving some temporary purpose, by making surveys of isolated districts. Each result is correct, and satisfactory for its own area, but, through the want of a knowledge of the intervening spaces, it is now impracticable to correlate the rocks in one part of the country with those elsewhere. Attention being called to the advantages of producing, as speedily as possible, a sketch-map of the

geology of the whole of British India, we hope that the enlightened head of our Indian Government will give the necessary directions for producing, as soon as possible, with all care, the much to be desired map.

#### MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL BOOKS.

*The Scholar's Algebra.* By W. Hensley, M.A. (Clarendon Press.)

THIS book deserves to rank high amongst elementary works on algebra. In the Preface, the author remarks that his purpose has been to enable the student to understand from the first what algebra is, and what it aims at, and we think that he has attained his aim very nearly. The introductory remarks on the connexion and difference between arithmetic and algebra are good, and the explanations are throughout more satisfactory than they commonly are in school books, some of the remarks on the logic of the subject being very pertinent. Equations and the solution of problems by means of them are treated clearly. Euler's proof of the binomial theorem, which is often badly given, is here made very intelligible. A good deal of space is devoted to numerical work, the practical part of logarithms being fully treated, and a method given of approximating to the roots of equations. Instead of the exponential theorem and the usual series for computing logarithms, there is a simple but laborious mode of obtaining the logarithm of any number as a continued fraction.

*Arithmetic in Theory and Practice.* By H. Evers, LL.D. (Collins, Sons & Co.)

THIS book does not come up to the standard of other works on the subject. It is full without being clear, and often it would be impossible to understand the meaning of the writer without knowing beforehand what he was endeavouring to say. This is noticeable in many of the definitions and rules. The way of simplifying a fraction by dividing the numerator and denominator by the same number is nowhere sufficiently explained; it seems to be assumed that it is evident to the student as to the teacher; and the author, apparently unaware that the rule for reducing recurring decimals to fractions can be simply explained, laments that the aid of algebra will only make confusion worse confounded, and says no more about it. The examples are often solved in more than one way, but, in some instances, these methods are so similar that they are apt to weary the reader without throwing any new light on the subject. Thus, four methods are given for common subtraction.

*Practical Plane Geometry.* By E. S. Burchett. (Collins, Sons & Co.)

THIS book presents its information in a convenient form for study, as the diagrams, which are well executed and very free from error, confront their propositions instead of being banished to the end of the book. The propositions are grouped according to their subject-matter, so that any one can be readily found, and, as it is assumed that the student has a good knowledge of elementary geometry, they are not accompanied by any proof. We think that a few hints concerning the solution of the harder questions would have made the book more useful to the average student. Most of the problems are solved by methods that are theoretically accurate; but, in his sixth problem, the writer assumes that the points of contact of the common tangent to two circles can be found by the ruler alone. The writer does not use the principle again, although there is no doubt that the power of drawing tangents and common tangents to curves ought to be a postulate in practical geometry. Before attacking the difficulties of the circle, the author shows how to construct various spirals and curves of the cycloid class, and also gives very practicable and elegant ways of describing the conic sections, so that he is able to employ the properties of these curves in the solutions of several problems concerning the circle. The numerous diagrams of arches and other ornamental figures offer good practice in applying the preceding problems, and form an introduction to

the study of design. The volume concludes with a description of various scales and a short sketch of the orthographical projection of simple solid figures. The book is not quite free from looseness of phraseology. In the Table of Contents, the writer proposes to draw a straight line which shall touch two other straight lines, and the same sort of thing appears in one or two other places. The definition of an Harmonic Mean in the note to problem 27 is incorrect, and it is a pity that problem 279, an excellent way of approximating to the perimeter of a circle, should be spoilt by an error in the enunciation, and another in the figure. For a practical book, the remarks on drawing instruments are very scanty. There is no description of the sector; and although there are several figures of set-squares, the most elegant form, the Marquis Scale, by which the eye and hand are so much aided in the subdivision of lines, is not mentioned. All the part devoted to the construction of scales loses through this omission, as the student will hardly find in the book a feasible plan for subdividing lines minutely. The Vernier Scale deserved some mention, but has found none. However, the faults of the book are comparatively trifling, and its good points numerous, and the worst that we can say of it is that it is more fitted for use with a teacher than for the student who works alone.

*The Elements of Geometry based on Euclid.* Books I.—III. By Edward Atkins. (Collins, Sons & Co.)

THIS consists of the ordinary text of Euclid with marginal notes, containing a symbolical analysis of each proposition—an addition of doubtful value. The book is a fair shilling's worth, but is not likely to supersede existing Euclids.

*An Elementary Treatise on Kinematics and Kinetics.* By E. J. Gross, M.A. (Rivingtons.)

MOTION and its Causes would be a fair rendering of the above title; and, for an elementary book, perhaps an improvement. Some years ago, this work would have been pronounced excellent, but it does not compare altogether favourably with the latest text-books on the subject. The explanations are elaborate, but they are devoted rather to clearing away trifling difficulties than to bringing into prominence physical principles. The subject of Momentum is, on the whole, well and fully treated; but the doctrine of work and kinetic energy has not enough space and importance assigned to it. A curious proof is given (in article 129) of the proposition that the tension of a light string on a smooth surface is uniform: the reasoning, if it proved anything, would prove that no quantity could vary continuously. The author has overlooked the fact that it is necessary not only to show that the difference between the tensions at consecutive points is indefinitely small, but that this difference is indefinitely small, compared with the angle between consecutive tangents. The articles on the motion of the "Centre of Gravity" read like an unfinished proposition, and seem to lead to nothing. Why not go a step further, and prove the important proposition that "The motion of the Centre of Gravity of a System of Bodies is the same as if the whole mass were collected at the Centre of Gravity, and all the forces applied there"? This admits of many interesting applications, for instance, as a direct result, that the centre of gravity of any number of projectiles moves in a parabola.

#### THE ENDOWMENT OF RESEARCH.

THE further grant of 4,000*l.* which the Government has conceded, and which is to be distributed by the Royal Society, seriously increases the responsibilities of a body that had already upon its shoulders the task of distributing 1,000*l.* per annum, and has also Mr. Jodrell's money to manage. It is not without anxiety that one sees the Society thus further involved in a perilous task; for, while the money wisely applied might be of much service to scientific investigators, it is unfortunately true that the existence of such a sum will stimulate almost to frenzy the activity of

those gentlemen who have made science a career, and are much more highly thought of by the general public than by truly scientific men.

The Society has done well in stipulating that its allotments shall either be accepted in block or wholly rejected, for this provision will prevent tampering on the part of persons who, not being responsible, should therefore have no power to interfere, and the Society, with which the responsibility must rest, will also have full control. The Society is certainly better fitted than any Government department to administer such a trust.

How much need there is for caution is shown by a letter that is at present being circulated at Government (!) expense, and for signatures to which there is an active canvass. It is addressed to the Duke of Richmond, and recommends the abolition of the present Museum of Patents, or rather its absorption into a permanent Museum of Scientific Instruments. It particularly demands notice as showing that there are already eager claimants for the 4,000*l.* which will not be paid over to the Royal Society till October. The memorialists are, it is suggested, to urge that—

"Investigators would be saved much time and labour by being enabled to see how far, and by what processes, others have advanced in the line of research which they may be pursuing, thus leading them to a knowledge of the facts and laws already established. From an educational point of view, such a collection would assist teachers by enabling them to select, or by showing them how to construct, the best apparatus for illustrating the subjects of their lessons. Great benefit would also accrue to the constructors of mechanical and philosophical apparatus from being able to refer to the original apparatus which they might be required to reproduce or to improve. To every one connected with experimental science, it would be of great service to see the actual instruments, many of which could otherwise be only known to them by description, and, under proper supervision and instruction, to learn their actual manipulation and performance. We would also contemplate lending to investigators, under suitable restrictions, such instruments as might be profitably employed in the researches they were pursuing."

This is, in fact, proposing that the authorities at South Kensington—for no other managing body is hinted at—should be supplied with a large stock of instruments, and be at liberty to order as many more as they like, and to lend them to anybody whom they choose to patronize. It is difficult to see what qualifications the officials at South Kensington possess for discharging so difficult a duty, or what guarantee there is of "proper supervision" on their part. The learned Societies might, perhaps, attempt, each in its own department, to administer such patronage; for every specialist, availing himself of the resources of such a collection, would work as it were under the eyes of those devoted to the same branch as himself, and they alone can be his competent critics. Of course this letter does not mention the Societies, but refers to the "recommendations" of the Science Commission.

"In § 93, the Commission state:—'We accordingly recommend the formation of a collection of physical and mechanical instruments; and we submit for consideration whether it may not be expedient that this collection, the collection of the Patent Museum, and of the Scientific and Educational Department of the South Kensington Museum should be united, and placed under the authority of a Minister of State.'"

The Memorial concludes by pointing out how cheaply the exhibition might be put together. Swallow the Patents Museum, beg the sweepings of the Loan Collection, and seize part of the new grant to the Royal Society. The Commissioners of 1851 will build a building, and South Kensington will have a new museum: and many possibilities of patronage.

It is with regret we see the name of one so respected as Dr. Hooker attached to such a proposal.

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## THE CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS.

MAY I hope that you will give a place in the columns of the *Athenæum* to the following second series of questions for discussion at the meeting of the International Congress of Orientalists at St. Petersburg? The questions are numbered in sequence to those which you did me the honour to publish in the *Athenæum* of the 6th of May.

ROBERT K. DOUGLAS,  
Corresponding Member of the Russian  
Committee of Organization.

## Second Series of Questions.

16. To what time do the most ancient chronicles of the Japanese, or rather their written historical traditions, refer? What are the sources of the relatively modern historical compilations which are known to us?

17. Does the existence in Japan of the dynasty of the Mikados of Kioto, who only enjoyed political influence, and the parallel existence of several dynasties of Shoguns, who *de facto* governed the country, constitute characteristic facts in the history of Japan only, or are they also found in the history of other peoples of Central Asia? In this case, can we not see in them the result of certain ideas on the "white bone" and "the black bone" peculiar to these peoples?

18. Does the sense in which modern European savants use the terms Turans and Turanians accord with the use which these two terms had among the ancient Persians? Did they not rather employ these terms as purely geographical terms, without implying the idea of distinction, or of rivalry of race, between the Turanian and Iranian populations?

19. At what epoch did the people called Turanians (in the modern acceptation of the name) begin to occupy the countries of Central Asia to the south of the Tien Shan? Were not these countries formerly occupied exclusively by tribes of the Indo-European family?

20. The natives of the lower valley of India were subdued, towards the commencement of the Christian era, by the Sakas and the Gêtas (the Sze and the Yue-ti of Chinese authors). These races appear to have ruled there a long time, and were never expelled from it, as far as we know. Are there still in India any descendants of these invaders, and, if so, under what ethnic names are they to be sought for, and what proofs are forthcoming for the assertion of this fact?

21. What are the proofs in favour of the generally received opinion in Europe that the Mawar-an-nahr of the tenth century were taken away from the Samanides by the khans of the Uigours, and not by those of another Turkish tribe? Was not this tribe probably that of the Kharluks?

22. Did the journey across the Turkish territories (and thence to India), which is described in the Arabian pamphlet known under the title of 'Risaleh Abu Dolef,' and preserved by Yakut and Kazwini, really take place? Does this 'Risaleh' really belong, as it has hitherto been believed, to the Arabian poet of the tenth century—Abu Dolef Misar Ibn Mohalhil? or is this 'Risaleh' an anonymous compilation, made after the oral traditions of different persons, and attributed, in order to give it more authority, to Abu Dolef, who, after all, might have travelled in Central Asia and India without necessarily leaving an account of his journeys?

23. What could be the source whence Al Biruni drew his information about the sea of the Varangs—information which he was the first to give?

24. The celebrated geographer, Al Bakri, gives us, in his great work on the 'Routes and Kingdoms,' some very curious notices upon the Slaves and their neighbours, according to a certain Ibrahim Ibn Yakub Israeli, who must have lived towards the end of the tenth century. Are any indications of the existence of this person to be found in the literature of the western Arabians, or in that of the Hebrews of the Middle Ages?

25. To what century is one to assign the composition of the geography attributed to Moses of Khorène, such as is found in the text published by the Mékhitarists in 1843?

26. From the time when the history of the Arabs was first studied in Europe, it has generally been held that religious fanaticism was the principal motive of the conquests of the Bedouin Arabs of the first century of Islam. Is this opinion true? Was it not rather the passion for booty and pillage, common to all the nomads, and which was intensified among the Bedouins by the Mussulman propaganda?

27. Is the religious system of Avesta dual or mono-

theistic? Is it identical, or not, with the religion of the Achéménides, judging from the cuneiform inscriptions?

28. Are the contents of the well-known Pali inscription of the King Piyadasi (Asoka?) sufficient to prove that this king was a Buddhist?

29. In what does the Reform of Buddhism undertaken in Thibet by the celebrated Dzon-Kaba consist; and what are the sources from which we draw our information upon this Reform?

30. Have Judaism and Parseeism had any reciprocal influence the one upon the other?

31. Is one to understand the Hebrews by the Aperi of the Egyptian Inscriptions?

32. What is the connexion between the names of the countries of Magan and Musur in the Assyrian Inscriptions?—as Assurbanipal employs these two names to designate Egypt.

33. What political end did Shishak (Séeng-Sesonkhis), the founder of the 22nd dynasty, pursue, in his expedition into Judea, during which he left the kingdom of the ten tribes at peace?

34. Is it possible to determine the approximate time of the introduction and of the general adoption, in Hebrew writing, of the letters *w-a-u*, *j-o-d*, and *hê*, at the end and sometimes in the middle of words, to designate vowels?

35. Were not certain signs used in Hebrew writing before the introduction of Massorah, to determine in doubtful cases the pronunciation of certain words, or of certain syllables, as was done by the Samaritans? What were these signs?

36. Must the Zaza dialect be classed among the Kurd dialects? If not, how is its origin to be explained?

37. An opinion recently put forth recognizes an intimate relation between the Afghan language and the modern dialects of India, the Sindi and the Panjabi. Should these relations be considered as radical and original affinities, or as the consequence of the relatively modern influence of the Indian dialects upon that language, the Iranian origin of which would in this case be beyond doubt?

38. How far are the ancient Soghdian and Kharizman names of the phases of the moon, which have been preserved to us by Al-Biruni, identical with the names of the Indian Nakshatras; and do they speak in favour of the Arian or Babylonian origin of the Nakshatras?

## GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

MR. STANFORD has published, in a separate form, a map of Central Asia, originally designed for the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* of 1868, but only published in 1875. This delay in the completion of this map will not surprise those acquainted with the conscientious manner in which the late Mr. Arrowsmith did his cartographical work. He found himself unable to keep pace with the progress of geographical discovery, which has been unusually rapid in that part of the world during the last ten years, and died before his work was completed to his satisfaction. Mr. Stanford has had the map revised, and it now fairly illustrates the state of our knowledge of the countries extending from the Caspian eastward as far as Amir Yakub's dominions.

In 'Marocco,' by E. de Amicis (Milan, Fratelli Treves), we have an account of a recent Italian embassy to the court of the Sultan of Morocco at Fez. Without any pretence at sensational narrative, the author furnishes a graphic account of the incidents of the tour, and we can testify—from a personal knowledge of the district visited—to the accuracy of his descriptions of the country and those of life in the northern capital of the Moorish empire. The members of the mission were favourably impressed by the reception accorded to them by the new sultan, Mulai Hassan, whose intelligence and unwearied activity in state affairs—as evinced by the improvements already inaugurated in his administration—encourage us to hope that under the present reign Morocco may enter upon an era of progress which will tend to raise the importance of the country in the estimation of other Powers.

Marcus Ward's 'Portable Atlas,' in thirty quarto maps, is neither better nor worse than the majority of cheap atlases published in this country. It certainly answers general purposes of reference, as long as the person using it is not very exacting;

and though there are errors in the colouring of the boundaries, and the European colonies are neither distinguished by colours nor by letters of reference, the outline of the maps is fairly correct. The 'Home Atlas,' published by the same firm, may be described as a cheap edition of the 'Portable Atlas,' whilst their Shilling and Sixpenny Atlases consist of selections from its maps. It is to be regretted that English publishers, as a rule, do not consider it necessary to entrust the compilation of their maps to scientific men, as is generally done abroad. Had Messrs. Ward done so in this instance, they might have produced a set of atlases deserving of commendation in every respect.

Mr. W. Napier, Chairman of the Straits Settlements Association, writing from personal knowledge of the country, offers a suggestion towards a settlement of the Perak question. The late difficulties began, he says, by our recognizing as sultan the more incompetent and unpopular of two candidates, whose claims, otherwise, were pretty equal. Mr. Birch, the resident accredited to this sultan, was murdered, and, owing to a check received by the troops sent to punish this outrage, the subsequent military operations became more extensive than was at first intended. But the people generally were not hostile, and, the district having now entirely submitted, the question remains, What is to be done? The system, introduced lately by Sir Andrew Clarke, of accrediting residents to the native princes would fail again at Perak, owing to the character of the sultan, while we could not well recognize his rival, as he is suspected of having approved of Mr. Birch's assassination. The alternative of annexation, besides being unjust, might lead to a dangerous combination against us of disaffected Malays with the powerful Chinese party. But a third course, and which is recommended by Mr. Napier, is to acquire these territories, as we acquired Penang and Singapore, by the simple process of purchase. We should then possess, undisturbed, the entire Western Coast from Quiddah down to Malacca. The sultans and other head men would gladly be mediatised, and are ready to accept the most moderate terms; and, if these premises are correct, Mr. Napier has some show of reason for saying that this would be "at once the cheapest, safest, and most humane method of settling the Perak question." Like many of those who have lived among the Malays, Mr. Napier dissects from the popular and more unfavourable estimate of their character. He admits that they are passionate, but not that they are treacherous. They are lazy, but this is due to the uncertainty, through ages of misgovernment, whether any one will reap the fruit of his labours. Lastly, they are not fanatical Mussulmans (occasional "running a-muck" to the contrary, notwithstanding), and are exceptionally well disposed to the English. All parties, he says, would welcome a settled Government under our rule, which would speedily lead to an enormous development of the natural resources of the country.

## SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—July 3.—Sir T. F. Elliot, V.P., in the chair.—The Rev. J. E. Pryor, Messrs. C. De Candolle, L. Lœffler, C. Henecage, W. S. Smith, and J. L. Walker were elected members.

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY.—July 4.—Dr. S. Birch, President, in the chair.—The following candidates were elected Members: Rev. Canon Collias, Rev. E. Lawson, Rev. T. Paley, and W. H. Rylands.—The following papers were then read: 'Notes on Cypriote Palaeography,' by D. Pierides (Larnaca). This paper consisted of three communications to the President of the Society, describing nine different Cypriote inscriptions which had been discovered during the recent excavations of General di Cesnola.—'Notes on Assyrian Religion and Mythology,' by W. St. Chad Boscawen.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—June 27.—Col. A. Lane Fox, President, in the chair.—The election

of two new Members was announced.—Mr. Walhouse exhibited arrow-heads from Southern India, closely resembling forms met with by Lieut. Cameron in Central Africa.—Remains of red-deer, wolf, with portions of a human skull, from the foundation of the Bath Gasworks, were exhibited by Miss A. W. Buckland.—Mr. Hyde Clarke read a paper, 'On Serpent and Siva Worship and Mythology, in America, Africa, and Asia.' The first part of the paper was devoted to an account of the Bribri and other Indians of Costa Rica in Central America, and of the immediate relations of their languages to those of Western Africa. This furnishes another connexion of language, besides the Carib with the Dahomey, the Guarani with the Agan and Abkhass, and the Quichua, Aymara, and Maya with Accad and Cambodian. The rest of the paper was devoted to tracing the Central-American one god, Sibn, and his mythology to the old world. This word, as Sowo and Nebo, is in company found with Kali in West and Central Africa, over a wide area, representing god, spirit, idol, naval, &c. It was then illustrated with Siva and Kali, and the cosmogony and serpent worship in India; and further with Nebo in Babylon, Seb in Egypt, Seba in Arabia and Phrygia. The title Sabaoth was referred to. The American legend appeared to point to a unity of God in the prehistoric epoch.—Mr. P. Harrison described marks found, last summer, on the chalk at Cissbury—some upon the walls of the galleries, and the remainder on rounded pieces of chalk.—Dr. Gillespie read a short note, 'On the Use of Flint Cores as Tools.'—The remaining papers were: 'On the term Mediterranean, as applied to a Part of the Human Race,'—and 'A minute Account of the Javanese,' by Mr. Kiehl.

#### Science Gossip.

SOME inquiries have been made as to the signification of the "h k l" of the new Mineralogical Society. The name is Prof. Miller's general expression for the symbol of any face of a crystal. It may consequently be inferred that this Society aims at being crystallographical and chemical rather than mineralogical, and consequently does not stand in rivalry to the Society of which Mr. Sorby is the President. A local meeting of the Cornish Members of the latter Society was held at Redruth on Saturday, July 1st, when a new mineral from West Phoenix Mine was described, and several rare minerals examined.

The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall offers a prize for the best essay on any mine or mining district of Cornwall, giving a full description of the lodes, with their direction, underlie, and all the phenomena connected with their ore-producing characters.

PROF. A. C. RAMSAY has recently resigned his chair of Geology in the Royal School of Mines, having occupied it since 1851. The Associates and students of the School have resolved, as a mark of their esteem, to present Prof. Ramsay with a testimonial.

PROF. D. COLLADON communicates to the *Revue Universelle des Mines et Métallurgie* a "Note" on the machinery employed in piercing the Tunnel of St. Gothard. It contains the most succinct and clear description of the scientific arrangements brought into use in this great work that we have seen.

WE have received the last published part of the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, forming the fifth volume issued. It contains several excellent papers on the natural history of the Pacific coast, its geology and mineralogy, and a few on subjects connected with physical science.

THE *Moniteur Industriel Belge* states that a prize of 2,000l. is offered by the authorities of Reggio-Calabria, for the most effective apparatus for obtaining the essence of bergamot. The purity, colour, and odour of the essence must be most carefully preserved, and the greatest possible quantity of it obtained, and which is strongly geological in its tendencies.

At a recent Séance, M. Harting communicated to the Academy of Sciences of Amsterdam his 'Plan de Dessechement du Zuiderzée, considéré au point du vue Géologique,' which the Academy decided should be transmitted to the Minister of the Interior for his approval.

THE Reports of the mining surveyors and registrars of Victoria for the quarter ending December, 1875, give the total yield of gold in that quarter as 287,133 ounces.

In the *American Journal of Science and Art* for June, Mr. J. Lawrence Smith concludes his interesting 'Researches on the Solid Carbon Compounds in Meteorites.' He arrives at some striking results, which he thus describes:—"We know of celestial carbon in three conditions, viz., in the gaseous form, as detected by the spectroscopy in the attenuated matter of comets; in meteorites in the solid form, impalpable in its nature, and diffused in small quantities through pulverulent masses of mineral matter that come to the earth from celestial regions; also in the solid form, but compact and hard, resembling terrestrial graphite, and this is embedded in metallic matter that comes from regions of space."

'STATISTICS OF MINES AND MINING IN THE STATES AND TERRITORIES WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS,' being the Seventh Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Mining Statistics, Mr. Rossiter W. Raymond, has recently been published.

M. ARM. GAUTIER publishes, in the *Bulletin de la Société Chimique de Paris*, the first portion of a long paper 'On the Fraudulent, Colouring Matters used in Wines.' He enumerates magenta, Chinese mallow (*Aithæa rosea*), elderberries, extract of indigo, and the berries of *Phytolacca decandra*, as amongst those most commonly employed, the latter, however, being rarely used, on account of their irritating character.

#### FINE ARTS

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE EIGHTY-SIXTH EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN.—5, Pall Mall East.—From Nine till Seven.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN.—From Nine till Dusk. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.—Gallery, 39, Pall Mall. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Will shortly close.

SOCIETY OF FRENCH ARTISTS, 188, New Bond Street.—THE SUMMER EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN.—From Ten to Six.—Admission, 1s. CH. W. DESCHAMPS.

BLACK AND WHITE EXHIBITION, Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly; consisting of Drawings, Etchings, Engravings, and a series of Impressions, Materials, Blocks, Plates, &c. to illustrate the processes of Line and Wood Engraving and Etching. Open from Ten till Six.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. ROBERT F. McNAIR, Secretary.

BALACLAVA.—MISS THOMPSON'S new Picture, 'BALACLAVA.'—THE FINE-ART SOCIETY (Limited) beg to announce that this Picture is now ON VIEW at their Galleries, 145, New Bond Street.—Admission, 1s., including Catalogue.

MR. GEORGE LANDSEER'S EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS, SKETCHES, and TROPHIES OF INDIA and KASHMIR. NOW OPEN DAILY, from Ten till six o'clock, at 145, New Bond Street.—Admission, 1s.

DORÉ'S NEW GREAT PICTURE, 'CHRIST ENTERING THE TEMPLE,' with 'Christ Leaving the Prætorium,' 'Dream of Pilate's Wife,' 'The Night of the Crucifixion,' at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Ten to Six.—1s.

ON VIEW.—Frith's celebrated Picture, 'THE SALON D'OR, HAMBURG.' Daily, at the Old British Gallery, 67 and 55, Pall Mall, Opposite Marlborough House, from 9 A.M. till 7 P.M.—Admission, 1s.

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Fictile Ivories in the South Kensington Museum. By J. O. Westwood. (Chapman & Hall.)

THIS is another of the promised catalogues of the various sections or classes of works of art in the South Kensington Museum; a series of books which supply a great amount of information upon the subjects on which they treat. We have already noticed the catalogues of Textiles, Ivories, Maiolica, Furniture, and Musical Instruments, and have expressed our thanks to the authorities of the Museum for an edition of the Prefaces to these volumes in a separate shape, and at a price within the

reach almost of every one. The present catalogue has only five or six pages by way of brief introduction, nor is it needed in this case. As Prof. Westwood says:—

"The admirable memoir by Sir Digby Wyatt on ivory carvings, delivered at the meeting of the Arundel Society in 1855, and the equally excellent introduction by Mr. Maskell to the catalogue of original ivories in the South Kensington Museum, to which the present volume may be considered as a supplement, render it unnecessary to enter at any great length on the history and appliances of ivory carvings during the Middle Ages."

Mr. Westwood's book, a handsome volume of 550 pages, illustrated with twenty-four photographs and nine woodcuts, contains a description of many hundred fictile ivories, ranging in date from Etruscan and Roman fragments of the centuries before the Christian era, down to the best modern examples. Of course, we need scarcely remind our readers that these are all to be seen in the Museum at South Kensington. The originals of a somewhat large proportion of them are also at South Kensington; and Mr. Westwood properly thought it unnecessary to describe these at the same length or so accurately as those which are preserved in other collections. There are, doubtless, many ivory carvings not only abroad but in England of the highest value, both historically and as works of art, from which no fictile copies have yet been made; but the series at Kensington is already sufficiently complete to enable the student both in art and history to derive from them most valuable information and assistance. We may quote what Mr. Maskell has said in his dissertation which precedes the catalogue of "ancient and mediæval ivories." He tells us that not only have we many examples still existing of ivories of the classic period, but that—

"from the middle of the fourth century down to the end of the sixteenth we have an unbroken chain. Increasing in number as they come nearer to the Middle Ages, we can refer to carved ivories of every century preserved in museums in England and elsewhere. Their importance with regard to the history of Art cannot be overrated. There is no such continuous chain in manuscripts, or mosaics, or gems, or enamels. The material itself or the decorations with which other works were surrounded very probably tempted people to destroy them; and we may thank the valueless character of many a piece of carved ivory, except as a work of art, for its preservation to our own days."

Fictile ivories are, as everybody knows, casts, in a peculiar preparation, from original pieces. Mr. Westwood gives us an account of how they are made,—as he is pleased to call it, speaking from his own experience, "an account of this very simple operation."

We can hardly, however, go so far as to agree with Mr. Westwood that "when properly made and coloured by hand from the originals (the stearined surface allowing the application of common water colours), it is next to impossible to distinguish one of these casts from the original." What the effect of added colour may be we hardly know, for the collection at South Kensington is uncoloured, and the difference, to our own eye at least, from a true ivory is at once obvious and absolute. No cast that we have ever seen uncoloured can be mistaken for an original for a moment; nor, we must further confess, can any cast supply the same amount of information. In fact, we

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have seen photographs of ivories to which we would rather trust than to the fictile copy. Neither the one nor the other can be said to give us anything like the complete satisfaction and teaching which we can obtain from the original. We think that all this may be fully allowed without detracting from the real value of a collection of fictile ivories.

The authorities at South Kensington are doing such good service not only in gathering together the best examples to be found in so many classes of decorative art, but in providing people with carefully written descriptions of the various collections, that it may be pardonable to remind them that a few hours' examination of the fictile ivories will enable them to make the exhibited examples agree better with the published catalogue; in fact, it would be well if the labels on a considerable number of the textiles, or the furniture, or the original ivories, were carefully compared with the more accurate descriptions in the official catalogues. We take it that the reason of the differences may be traced to the fact that the old labels first attached when the object was purchased have been allowed to remain, although the author of each catalogue upon a more careful examination may have given a truer date. For example, in the present case, the cast of the Bellerophon (in the British Museum) is, if we are not mistaken, still labelled "Byzantine, sixth or seventh century," although Mr. Maskell and Prof. Westwood say, the first that it is Roman work, and both that it is not later than the fourth century. The diptych of Boethius, Consul in A.D. 487, and of Anastasius, Consul in 517, are labelled "Byzantine, sixth or seventh century"; in these instances the error is less to be excused, as the years of the consulates are known. But the cast of the diptych of Areobindus has upon both leaves, "Byzantine, early sixteenth century,"—a date somewhere about a thousand years after the last man who held the once illustrious title of Roman Consul. We are quite sure that all that is necessary in order to remove these mistakes is to draw the attention of those to whom the work of arranging the labels is entrusted.

About one-third of Mr. Westwood's book is filled with an Appendix, containing a list and brief description of the chief ivories preserved in museums abroad; Mr. Maskell (Mr. Westwood explains), having already described the most remarkable of those which are in the British Museum, the Ashmolean, and at Liverpool. We thank Prof. Westwood very sincerely for this appendix; it is, we think, the most valuable part of his book; and his knowledge of the subject on which he writes is so accurate that we can fully trust to him. Nor must we forget to recognize the care and labour which he displays. The only complaint we can make is that he has not in all instances added the date of the example, an omission which, when we remember how great a reliance we can place upon his judgment, is the more to be regretted.

The public collections abroad are very numerous; in Italy there are nearly fifty,—which Mr. Westwood has examined—some of which have as many as twenty or thirty important ivories, not to mention such world-renowned examples as the great book-cover in the Vatican, or the leaf of the Barberini

diptych, or the chair of Archbishop Maximian at Ravenna, or the diptychs and Theodolinda's comb at Monza.

Mr. Westwood has given at the end some very complete and carefully prepared indexes, by far the best which have yet been added to any of the large detailed catalogues of the museum, and we are glad to recognize the promise shown of a necessary improvement in this respect. There is also a long list of "errata et addenda," not altogether without reason when little mistakes like killing Cain instead of Abel have occurred in the text. This new mode of telling the story of the first murder reminds us of another amusing blunder which was on the very point, some years ago, of being published to the world under the sanction of Her Majesty's Council for Education. The author, a clever person, and well read in profane literature, had occasion to speak of the miraculous birth of John the Baptist. He wrote, "In one of the apocryphal gospels we find the following legend:" and then he gave a detailed history of the miracle in almost the exact words of the Gospel of St. Luke. Luckily, a friend happened to see the printed sheet in time to get the pages cancelled before publication, and we are left to imagine the consternation which would have been roused in the clerical mind of England by an official repudiation of the genuineness of the Gospel of St. Luke.

We must not omit noticing a very clever hypothesis which Mr. Westwood proposes in these "addenda." He refers to the superb leaf of a diptych, in the British Museum, which represents an archangel; as he rightly says, "one of the largest and finest ancient ivories in existence." He says, "I have little doubt that this leaf is identical with the 'Angelus longus eburneus,' mentioned in the list of objects belonging to Christ Church, Canterbury, in 1321, given in Dart, Appendix, p. xvij." We are quite disposed to accept this conclusion; and although some doubt must necessarily still remain, even the probable chance that it may be correct adds immense interest to that magnificent ivory. It may possibly have been among the valuable things brought to England by St. Augustine himself.

*The Church Bells of Leicestershire.* By T. North. (Leicester, Clarke.)—Mr. North has devoted his leisure to campanological studies and observations during more than twenty years, and to the bells of Leicestershire in particular has he given much attention. He produced that excellent monograph, "A Chronicle of the Church of St. Martin at Leicester," which was reviewed in these columns some few years ago. For the present work he obtained abundance of assistance from the local clergy and others interested in bells. He tells us there are nearly a thousand bells in Leicestershire, of which only 147 can be said, with any certainty, to have been cast before 1600. Even the dedications of the bells afford a curious glimpse of ancient faith, for, of 146 old bells, thirty-two refer to "B. V. Mary," and but seventeen to Christ, one to Gabriel, three to St. Michael, one to "St. Richard of Chichester," an unusual, we think unique, invocation. Such a work as this would be imperfect without a chapter on the founders of the bells, and there is reason for supposing that a bell-foundry was established at Leicester at least as early as the middle of the fourteenth century, for a tenor bell in all Saints' Church of that town is inscribed with the name of John de Stafford, whose name, if the same man be designated in both cases, is recorded in the Fabric Rolls of York Minster, with

the date 1371. Many of this man's bells exist in the county; one of the same name, probably the same person, was Mayor of Leicester in 1366 and 1370. A list of bell-founders follows this name, the preparation of which must have cost great labour. No chapter of a history of bells has anything like an equal charm,—either for the student of the subject, or the general reader who seeks rather to amuse himself than to get instruction,—with that which must be devoted to the peculiar uses of bells; here generally pathos, human appeals, and even gleams of humour, sardonic sometimes, and sometimes gay, are to be found. The most significant fact we have discovered in Mr. North's records is that the "sanctus bell" of Lutterworth Church, the "only original sanctus-bell in Leicestershire," is now called the "sacrament bell," and "is rung instead of the sermon-bell, in the summons to divine service, whenever there is a celebration of the Holy Communion." Mr. North calls this a coincidence. Curfew is still rung at Loughborough, at Waltham-on-the-Wolds, and at Kegworth. It is customary in some places, as at Melton-Mowbray, to toll the day of the month after curfew; a similar practice, we may add, obtains elsewhere, as at Beverley; the minster "shrive bell," now called "pan-cake bell," is still rung in a great number of Leicestershire churches on Shrove Tuesday, at Belgrave, formerly, by the oldest apprentice in the parish. Bells backward rung, the veritable tocsin, are used to give alarms of fires in Leicestershire as elsewhere. This book contains much matter laboriously collected on inscriptions on bells, churchwardens' accounts respecting bells, the decorations and armorials on bells, and other details into which our space forbids us to enter, but which may well be commended to the antiquary and the campanologist.

*The Old Derby China Factory: the Workmen and their Productions.* By J. Haslem. (Bell & Sons.)—This handsome volume, illustrated as it is with diagrams in colours of the favourite characteristic patterns of that peculiar branch of the manufacture which has made Derby so dear, in every sense of the term, to collectors of British ceramic works, will be most welcome to all whom it may concern. It contains copies of marks of "illustrious" makers, and other signatures very precious indeed to lovers of the craft, and curious as supplying materials for mastering the history of the subject. Here are likewise biographical notices of some of the better-known makers and decorators of Derby ware, including the "immortal" Billingsley himself, so much of whose fame is already due to Mr. Haslem. Likewise price-lists of numerous examples, very edifying to collectors, and valuable in their way, which may well be compared with the published lists of Wedgwood's productions, and those of other makers in various seats of china-making in England during the eighteenth and the present centuries. It is a capital book, full of solid and excellent matter, the preparation of which has been a labour of love to the author, and it supplies what was desired by many. Being thus truly a creditable work, we gladly recommend it to all readers who desire to learn the history and peculiarities of the manufacture to which it is devoted.

#### MOORISH ANTIQUITIES.

In fulfilment of a hope expressed in my letter, published in the *Athenæum* of the 30th of last October, I am now enabled, by the obliging courtesy of Mr. Jno. Frost, H.B.M. Vice-Consul at Rabat, to communicate some further information concerning the monuments of the Moorish Sultans interred in the ruined mausoleum at Shella.

In accordance with a suggestion to Mr. Frost that he should forward me rubbings from any remaining inscribed stones, he has recently favoured me with such copies of the inscriptions on three fragments of marble, which have evidently formed portions of tombstones similar in shape to those of the Sultan Abulhasan and his wife described in my last communication.

The inscriptions on these monumental frag-

ments, incomplete though they are, prove to be of much historical interest, as those on two of them contain portions of the epitaph in honour of the Beni-Merim Sultan Abu Yusuf Ya'kub, the most powerful and enlightened sovereign who ever reigned over the empire of Morocco—not even excepting his namesake, the renowned Ya'kub al-Mansour of the previous dynasty of the Almohades. His campaigns in Spain, at first against Alphonso X. (El Sabio), King of Castile, and afterwards in conjunction with that monarch against the rebellious prince Don Sancho, will be remembered by all students of Spanish history, while I would refer those who have any desire to become acquainted with his personal biography and the annals of his exploits in Africa to Ibn Khaldun's 'History of the Muslim Dynasties of North Africa,' as translated by Baron de Slane, or to M. Beaumier's translation of the 'Roudh el-Kartas' of Abd el-Halim, in either of which works many chapters will be found devoted to an account of the reign of this monarch.

The two fragments referred to do not comprise more than a quarter of the original monument. The name of the deceased does not occur on either of them, but part of the date remaining on the larger of them "... Tuesday the twenty-second ..." furnishes us with a clue, whereby we ascertain the name of the monarch in whose honour the monument was placed, as it was on Tuesday the twenty-second of the month of Moharrem, A.H. 685 (A.D. 1286), that the death of the Sultan Ya'kub took place in his palace at Algeciras, in Spain, which city he had founded in its present site. Thence his body was transported to Africa, and buried—as all Arabic historians are agreed—in the royal mausoleum at Shella, though Condé, with that disregard for accuracy which causes any statement contained in his volumes to be accepted with a certain amount of caution, informs us that the interment took place at Salee. Other portions of the incomplete inscription furnish us with the title and laudatory epithets applied to the sovereign, "... the Amir of the Muslims and Defender of the Faith..." "the Sainted, the Pure, the Blessed..." &c., as well as the words answering to those italicized in the following verse from the Koran, which occurs towards the close of the third chapter:—"Every soul shall taste of death, and ye shall have your rewards on the day of resurrection, and he who shall be far removed from hell fire and shall be admitted into Paradise shall be happy, but the present life is only a deceitful provision." (I quote from Sale's version as being the most readily accessible, not as being the most literal translation.) The words which would render this obituary verse complete would, no doubt, be found on the missing portions of the monument if they be still in existence, which is somewhat doubtful.

The inscription on the third fragment of marble of which a copy has been sent to me does not, unfortunately, afford any clue to the name of the personage in whose honour the monument of which it is a portion was raised, the only words at present decipherable being "... and his mercy, on Friday.... our Lord and Master Muhammad...."

I am indebted to Dr. Rieu, of the British Museum, for a translation of these curious inscriptions.

I regret to learn from Mr. Frost that there seems to be but little chance at present of further light being thrown upon the interesting sepulchral remains of Shella. Though the Moors are themselves utterly neglectful of the care of their own historical monuments, they are extremely jealous of any examination of them by Christians, and would object to such an exploration of the mausoleum as would, if permitted to be undertaken, doubtless bring to light many interesting relics of antiquity still existing amongst its ruins. The Arabic geographer and historian, Hasan ibn Muhammad al-Fasi—better known as Leo Africanus—whose topography of Africa was written in 1526, and subsequently published in Latin and several European languages, mentions having paid

a visit to the mausoleum at Shella, where he copied the inscriptions on thirty-two royal monuments. He makes a statement, which I do not find recorded in the writings of other historians, viz., that the mausoleum was built by the Sultan Ya'kub al-Mansour, whose body was interred within its walls, having been transported thither from the city of Morocco, where his death took place A.H. 595, or 1198 of our era. TROVEY BLACKMORE.

#### AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART AT MUNICH.

THE South German journals are delighted with a great exhibition of art-works and manufactures now open in the "Glaspalast," Munich. Bored by monster shows, and more than sceptical as to the good to be got out of them, English people look languidly at reports from Philadelphia, and feel thankful that the next Exhibition in Paris is as yet divided from us by a considerable interval of time. In Munich, however, the case is different, and crowds collect to see treasures of art placed side by side, the ancient and the modern, the historically interesting and the until now unknown. Such an Exhibition is still a novelty in the little capital. Some forty years since there was, as we are told, an Exhibition held by the Zollverein at Munich, but it was a simple affair, comprising industrial products from all Germany, and scarcely anything worthy of the name of art was to be seen in a dozen dull rooms. In 1854 the "Glaspalast" was built; an exhibition was held, but, although superior to anything of the sort which had been seen in King Ludwig's capital, it was nothing to that which is hoped will attract visitors from far and near. The gathering in Vienna has excited the emulation of Bavaria, and so we have to record the opening of another "great" Exhibition, this time not a mere shop, but a gathering of genuine works of art and "art-industry," for to the importance of promoting the latter the men of Munich are fully alive.

We have no idea of detaining the reader with accounts of the opening ceremonies proper, when, as it is quaintly said, "a Royal Prince acquitted himself of his obligations in person." It is enough that the place was opened, and probably would have opened itself, so eager were all good Bavarians for the show of which so much had been said. Herr Werner's large allegory of the "Founding of the German Empire" occupies a conspicuous place, due, it is admitted, to its subject. In an iron pavilion, placed in the large hall adjoining the garden, is a large and enormously valuable collection of jewels, precious not only on account of their intrinsic worth, but also because of their artistic value. The walls of the hall are decorated with Gobelin tapestry, mostly of Munich manufacture, representing subjects dating from the fifteenth to the end of the last century; arranged on the floor are articles of artistic furniture, enriched with gilding, inlays, armorials, &c., and in table-cases are articles of metal and ivory, lent by the authorities at South Kensington and by other foreign museums, making, by the whole, a dazzling display. With these are combined modern examples of the various arts. In the transepts are works contributed by Austria and Bavaria; in two suites of large saloons in the centre are three rows of cabinets, of great artistic merit and beauty. The works contributed by Austria form, it is said, the centre-point of attraction at the Exhibition, being more choice and elegant than she has before produced, as well as extremely rich and of sterling worth. Not one of the names famous on these occasions is unrepresented, so that Austria is now far better represented at Munich than she was three years since at Vienna. Lobmeyr's glass wares are conspicuous, with the Cashmere shawls of Isbary, and the carpets of Haas's factory, the ornaments and jewellery of Razersdorfer, goldsmith's work in the antique manner by Bacher, and many similar objects. On the left are productions of Herren Ludwig and Schenzel; in an adjoining room are the well-known bronzes of Hellenbach, Hannisch, and others; and, further on, articles in leather by A. Klein, Grouer, and others. Near these are specimens of cabinet-

making by Herr Düwel, and carpets and silks by P. Haas. A plan has been followed in respect to these rooms, for which something may be said: some pictures and sculptures are placed with the artistic furniture, so as to give the character of real chambers, rather than exhibition-galleries, to the places in question. Prominent among the examples of such works is a cabinet by Herr Heinmez, junior, combining children painted by Herr Wagner on a frieze. Near these objects are similar works by Herren Pöschbacher and others, combining beauty of design, richness of decoration, and "comfortableness" in use; also bronzes by Herr Müller, jewellery by Herr Halbriets, furniture by Herr Radspieler, paintings by Langenmantel, a sideboard by Herr Kreling, majolica by Herr Schwarz, glass by Stiegerwald, jewellery by Herr Stiebenpeiffer of Pforzheim.

The articles exhibited by Prussia and her acquired territories comprise Berlin porcelain, enamelled articles by Herr Ravené, silversmith's works by Herren Humbert and Heylandt, iron works by Herr Isenberg. The rigid and stiff character of the Prussian régime is shown even in the industrial productions of the well-drilled people, when compared with the freer style affected on the other side of the Main. Neither Prussia proper nor her recent conquests are represented with anything like the success attending the efforts of the South Germans. The pottery of the manufacture of Mittlach, some furniture contributed by Herr Pallenberg of Cologne, and paper-hangings by Herr Fischbach form an exception.

The bulk of the pictures are hung in three saloons, where, however, they are in some cases obscured by superabundance of velvets, fine furniture, and gilding. In the transept are big pictures by Herr Feuerbach, three large ones by Herr Mackart, the fruits of a sojourn in Cairo, an old one by K. Piloty, with works of W. Kaulbach, Herren F. Piloty, Steintle, F. Keller, Hoffmann of Dresden, Müller of Munich, F. du Faure, Bodenmüller, L. Braun, Lenbach, Richter of Berlin, Biltman, and Canon of Vienna. These appear to be the most important contributors whose works are as yet shown at Munich, but more are expected.

The contributions of Württemberg are not well spoken of, either as to their quality or their arrangement. Saxony and Hesse are more successful; the former being especially fortunate in some kinds of decorative iron work, the latter in furniture.

#### Fine-Art Gossip.

MR. STEPHEN THOMPSON is now in Italy, on a special mission on behalf of the Arundel Society. He is to photograph examples of Italian monumental art, chiefly of the quattro-cento period, extending, at any rate, to 1500. From this journey we may expect good fruits in a work the Society proposes to publish.

THE Catalogue of ancient Sicilian coins recently published by the Trustees of the British Museum is rendered of more use to students by the exhibition of a large proportion of those coins under glass in the Gold-ornament Room. It is a pity that space does not allow of the exhibition of all; but enough appear to show of what the Sicilian Greeks were capable in the way of art, and what phases their art passed through between the fifth and second centuries B.C. The arrangement must have cost much thought, and may save much to collectors who visit the Museum: in almost all cases it is chronological under each city. The part exhibited reaches from Abacenum to Segesta, being the first half of the Museum collection, believed to be the richest in Europe; certainly far surpassing those of Paris, Berlin, and Naples.

ONE hundred ladies, students in the Slade School of Art, have presented to Mr. Poynter a Japanese bronze jar, containing a *Lilium auratum*, and a lacquer box, in which is a letter expressing the gratitude of the subscribers as regards the

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school, and their regret on Mr. Poynter's resignation.

THE *Gazette des Beaux Arts* for this month comprises the first of a series of papers on the *Salon*, by M. Yriarte, with illustrations comprising the fine work, by M. Pavis de Chavannes, "Ste. Geneviève"; and the fifth paper on "Les Sceaux des Archives Nationales."

MESSRS. HARDWICKE & BOGUE send us 'St. Paul's Cathedral, the Impression and the Remedy,' by the Author of 'Art Impressions of Dresden.' Not having encountered the "Art Impressions," we now know the "Author" by means of his latest lucubration, and, having read and tried to understand it, we are compelled to say that we can make neither head nor tail of it; that we doubt if the "Author" has anything like a definite and rational idea of the subject in question, or, in fact, of any other subject of artistic character. Judging from the style and the numerous "sly" allusions to himself, his career, opinions, and ideas, we fancy the "Author" is one of those queer, self-centred individuals who, having no experience of other men, mistake common intelligence and accomplishments for peculiar gifts and acquirements, and fancy that they are humourists of an original strain, when they are simply whimsical and conceited.

THE *Builder*, in an excellent article on "Wall Papers," has the following remarks on the papers most in vogue with a certain class of purchasers, the truth of which is lamentable: "But if we glance at the papers which are offered now for the mass of purchasers who wish to furnish 'handsomely,' but who seldom give much thought to good or bad principles of design,—who take what is offered them, in fact,—we are astonished and cast down at seeing what it is that is being offered them. After all the influence of Owen Jones,—after all that of some of his successors in the field who, if not showing so pure a taste, evinced at least a desire for, and a knowledge of, artistic effect and artistic principle,—we see, to our dismay, all the old vulgarities of Knops (knots?) and festoons of flowers, scattered in bunches over the paper, coming into full popularity again. We have seen them displayed as the latest enticements in the windows of furnishing and upholstery and decorating firms of the first reputation—firms of whom it is blindly considered that to go to them is to have the right thing done; and we can only once more lament and wonder over the marvellous vitality of vulgar and tawdry tastes among English tradesmen and their customers." Of course the "tradesmen" are to blame, who do not care for art, and will submit their better knowledge to the ignorance or whims of customers, even although they gain nothing by so doing in the long run. But why does not our contemporary publish the names of the "trading firms," giving them the benefit of a gratuitous advertisement? A better plan than that of finding fault is to direct on the right line; therefore we commend to those who require a perfectly well designed and coloured paper, fit for a moderately sized room, and specially well adapted to show pictures and drawings, having a sober and agreeable character, that which is well known to artists by the name of "Munich Olives," sold by Messrs. Woollams, of Marylebone Lane, at the rate of threepence or fourpence a yard—we forget which. "Munich Olives" is printed in two ashy greens; the same pattern, a small arabesque, may be had in buff, marone, and other tints. These papers are much improved by the addition of a richly coloured flock border, comprising gold, and of width commensurate with the size of the room. Of course they will not suit those who desire to have the last new "sweet thing in papers." But they go well with nearly any point or graining, except the very miserable and poor "bird's-eye maple," which cheap decorations affect, and which always looks so cheap.

THE Berlin authorities have after all agreed to buy Col. Guthrie's collection of coins, but the bargain is not concluded nor the money paid. At the request of several friends, Mr. John

Henry Parker lectured at the Rooms of the Royal Institute of British Architects, for the benefit of the Roman Exploration Fund, on the remains of Ancient Rome, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. His subjects were: 'The Construction of the Time of the Kings and of the Republic,' 'The Forum Romanum and the Via Sacra,' 'The Colosseum compared with other Amphitheatres.'

THE absurd mistake made by the late Dean of St. Paul's in prohibiting—that is the right term—the introduction into his cathedral of the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, an essential feature of the tomb, is likely to be repaired. This monument was designed with special reference to the position originally intended for it under one of the arches of the great arcade of St. Paul's, a worthy place for it, and which would have been worthily filled by the work designed by Alfred Stevens. Two important elements of it are now to be seen in the Royal Academy Exhibition, where one of them has astounded those who have not rightly estimated the genius of the sculptor. The monument was to be surmounted by an equestrian statue of the Duke, as is common in innumerable memorials, and of all ages and countries, as we years ago showed, when commenting on Dean Milman's queer architectural freak. That accomplished divine took it into his head that the effigies of a horse, or at least of a horse and its rider, ought not to be placed in a Christian church (!), and he actually vetoed the group, although it formed the crowning feature of the noblest monument likely to be placed in St. Paul's. To remove this group was, as folly, more than equal to defacing a pyramid by truncating it, for the act simply ruined the whole composition, broke the grand culmination of its lines, debased its ordering, deprived it of anything like architectural significance, and seriously maimed the sculptural propriety of the work. The pathetic purpose of the designer was wrecked, for he sought to show the great Duke in the pride of life and victory, and at the same time, to express the humanity of the commander, the brevity of human triumphs, showed him recumbent, and in the act of prayer, on the sarcophagus below, over which the arch and all its suggestions of glory—glory that had passed away—and all its emblems of human power, victory, and greatness, were but the canopy and subservient features. The exclusion of the equestrian group was therefore a triumph of dulness over genius, and the kindest friends of the late Dean will hope that the stigma on his æsthetic and poetic faculties may cease to exist. This only can be when it is no longer a part of the history of the memorial that Dr. Milman blundered about it. We are informed that, so original were the æsthetic notions of Dr. Milman, his was the chief, if not the only voice, which condemned the Wellington Monument to the cabin into which it has been thrust, that is, into the little so-called Consistory Court, where it is not possible to get a view of the work. Indeed, one never ceases to marvel how it got in so small a place. To stuff the Duke's tomb, and the most glorious national monument of our time, into a little out-of-the-way box of a room was really rather too bold a stroke, even for a Dean of these days. It would not cost much to remove the monument to the situation for which it was designed, where alone it will be seen, and where alone the Duke of Wellington can be worthily commemorated.

## MUSIC

### HER MAJESTY'S OPERA.

OWING to the illness of Mdlle. Tietjens, who is, however, expected to be well enough to appear in Beethoven's 'Fidelio' next Thursday, changes of operas and of casts have been necessitated. Madame Marie Roze has been the substitute for the German *prima donna* in 'Don Giovanni,' as Donna Anna, and in 'Lohengrin,' as Ortrude. The French lady will officiate for Mdlle. Chapuy, who has been compelled, through continued indisposition, to leave for Boulogne, as Susanna in the 'Nozze di

Figaro,' which is promised for this evening (Saturday). 'Semiramide,' much to the disappointment of the admirers of that masterpiece by Rossini, could not be given, and Herr von Flotow's 'Marta' was the opera which replaced it, affording Signora Varesi another opportunity to distinguish herself, both as vocalist and actress. Amateurs will regret to learn that Herr Rokitansky will not appear as Bertram in 'Robert le Diable'; he has left London for Vienna, where his services are required for the Imperial Opera-house.

It is expected that the season at Drury Lane will not be prolonged beyond the 22nd inst. Mr. Mapleson will have to devote his time and attention to the completion of the Grand Opera-house on the Thames Embankment. The outlay for this hideous building will now, it appears, exceed 200,000*l.*, at least, so the architect stated at a meeting of the debenture-holders, held at the mansion of the Duke of Sutherland.

### THE MUSICAL UNION.

IT was Mr. Dannreuther who first made known in this country the name of Peter von Tschai-kowsky, by performing, at the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, the Russian composer's Piano-forte Concerto, with orchestra, Op. 23, on the 11th of last March. The work was noticed in the *Athenæum* of the 18th (ante, No. 2525). In the article a wish was expressed that somebody would be induced by the decided success of the concerto to import some other compositions by the same hand. This has been done by Herr Leopold Auer, who usually resides at St. Petersburg, and who, last Tuesday, at the eighth and final *Matinée* of the Musical Union, introduced M. Tschai-kowsky's String Quartet in D, Op. 11, taking the lead therein as first violin, and having as colleagues M. Otto Bernhardt (second violin), Heer Holländer (viola), and M. Lasserre (violinello). The high opinion which the concerto led people to form of the composer, has been fully confirmed by the chamber composition. Executed to perfection, rarely has any new quartet created such a sensation. To state that the second movement, *andante cantabile*, was enthusiastically encored, will not suffice to give a notion of the praise passed on the production, both by professors of eminence and connoisseurs. The effect of a *pizzicato* pedal figure for the violinello, with a charming melody for the violin, and the broken phrases of harmony in the concluding *cadence*, were indescribably beautiful, expressed so "eloquently," so to speak, as they were by the players. In the poetical tone which he gave to this *andante*, Herr Auer surpassed himself. The great feature of the quartet is the freshness of the subjects and the novelty of their development. There is sound scholarship combined with continuous variety; the interest is incessant; the *scherzo* and trio are full of character, and the *finale allegro giusto*, with its striking coda, fixes the attention and commands admiration to the last notes. Is the "coming man," after all, to be found in the Russian capital? M. von Tschai-kowsky is only in his thirty-sixth year, and from such specimens as have reached us already, and from what is said of his two operas, it is quite evident, at all events, that M. Tschai-kowsky, now a Professor of Harmony in the Moscow Conservatorium, is one of the most promising of the musicians of the period. There was, however, another novelty in Tuesday's scheme, emanating from the French school, by M. Saint-Saëns, who combines the attributes of organist, pianist, and composer, and whose works in Russia and Germany, as well as in his own country, have met with general acceptance. He has written oratorios, cantatas, operas, concertos, a Mass in G minor, and other sacred works, besides chamber compositions. It was his Piano-forte and String Quartet in B flat, Op. 41, which was given here by himself, M. M. Auer, Holländer, and Lasserre. It is the production of an original thinker, who proved that he is a most skilful contrapuntist. Perhaps it would satisfy the experienced artistic mind more than general hearers, who do not always grasp the elaborations emanating from a scientific intellect;

but the *andante maestoso*, with its florid figures, and the vigorous *finale*, won the sympathies of the audience. M. Saint-Saëns also joined Signor Jaëll in a duet for two pianofortes, Op. 35, variations on a theme—the Trio of Beethoven's Sonata in *c* flat, Op. 31. M. Saint-Saëns, in this duet, introduces a funeral march and fugue, included in the eight variations. In the hands of the two pianists, it produced a decided effect. Herr Auer chose for his solos an Introduction and Gavotte in *c*, Op. 26, by Herr Franz Ries, a violinist of Dresden, and the melodious *motif* from Bach's Suite in *D*; both exhibited the pure and noble style of the executant. M. Saint-Saëns, for his solos, selected his own Transcription from Bach's works. Prof. Ella has terminated his thirty-second season brilliantly.

#### SIGNOR PETRELLA'S 'IONE.'

SIGNOR PETRELLA's four-act opera, 'Ione,' a setting of Bulwer's 'Last Days of Pompeii,' has been frequently referred to in our notices of the lyric drama in Italy; but, although the work has been popular in that country, and it affords great scope for spectacular effects, our Impresarios have not been tempted to produce it here. It is certainly curious to find that some amateurs have boldly ventured to perform 'Ione,' with full band and chorus, scenic and other accessories. On the 28th and 30th ult., two representations took place, in the Bijou Theatre, Royal Albert Hall, and Major Wallace Carpenter invited a large number of opera-goers and of professors to hear the work, which is regarded as the composer's masterpiece. Some professionals from Her Majesty's Opera were associated with the amateurs in the band and chorus; the score was rigidly adhered to; there were no cuts even in the recitatives; and the execution in the *ensemble* was quite as good as has been seen at some of the performances lately at the two Italian Opera-houses. Criticism is, of course, out of question as regards the amateur element; but two exceptions in the cast must be referred to. The daughter of Signor Marras, the tenor, sustained the title-part; and Mr. Drummond, now a professional tenor, was Glaucus. The lady (Mrs. Dunbar Schultze) may be safely counted as a *prima donna*, with a sympathetic soprano voice of good compass, who phrases well, pronounces well, and sings her scales with precision. Mr. Drummond's organ is somewhat thick in the *timbre*, and rugged; but his style is dramatic, and he can turn to account his head notes. Signor Petrella's music is essentially of the Bellini-Donizetti school,—that is, tuneful throughout, and the melodies are sometimes ear-catching. The airs and *scène* assigned to Ione and Glaucus are well voiced, and at times brilliant. A *Brindisi* by the tenor, in the first act, will haunt the memory, and so will the subject of the *finale* of the second act, in which Glaucus drinks out of the drugged cup presented by Nydia, the Thessalian slave. There is a market scene in Pompeii in the third act, and a scene in the Temple of Isis, when Arbaces denounces Glaucus. The fourth and last act is at the exterior of the Amphitheatre, with the funeral march of the condemned Glaucus, and a *scène* of power for the tenor. The catastrophe of the eruption of Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii end the opera, like the novel, Ione, Glaucus, and Sallust escaping to the sea, and Arbaces perishing with the inhabitants, poor Nydia, who had obtained the pardon for Glaucus, being also sacrificed. The amateurs have certainly distinguished themselves this season, by singing in the Mass of Bach, in operettas by Mrs. March (Virginia Gabriel), and by performing an Italian opera in its entirety.

#### CONCERTS.

MR. WALTER MACFARREN, at his morning concert in St. James's Hall, on the 1st inst., introduced his second Sonata in *D*, for piano and violin, with M. Sainton as his colleague. He also played his 'Suite de Pièces,' a work in which he has cleverly modernized the quaint movements of the old masters, who revelled in dance measures, sara-

bands, gavottes, gigue, &c. His trio for female voices, 'The Coming of the May,' was sung by students of the Royal Academy of Music, of whose concerts he is the conductor. Mr. Walter Macfarren, besides being a skilful pianist, is a careful and conscientious composer, with strongly pronounced classical tendencies. He was assisted by Miss Jessie Jones and Mr. Cummings, vocalists; and Mr. Lazarus, clarinet; Miss Kate Steel, pianist; Mr. Amor, violin; Mr. A. Barnett, viola; and Mr. Pettit, violoncello. Signor Randegger was the conductor.

The other concerts of the week have been those of Mr. W. Smith, in St. George's Hall, where a comic cantata by Mr. George Fox, called 'The Jackdaw of Rheims,' taken from the 'Ingoldsby Legends,' was introduced; of Herr Carl Bohrer, a German basso, in the Langham Hall; of Mr. and Mrs. A. Gilbert, in the Suffolk Street Gallery; of Mdlle. Gayard Pacini, the pianist; of Signora Maria Luisa Grimaldi, the pianist; of Mr. Ganz, the pianist and composer; of Mr. Frank Foote, the basso; of Mr. R. Blagrove, concertinaist; and of Signor Urio, the tenor.

At the concert of Mrs. Beesley, the pianist, a pupil of Dr. Von Bülow, at 88, Portland Place, by permission of Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis, the lady was prevented by illness from appearing. Mr. Walter Bache officiated for the lady, assisted by M. Sainton, violin; Mr. H. Levier, violoncello; Mr. Fritz Hartvigson, pianist; Miss Linda Kaiser and Mr. W. Shakespeare, vocalists.

#### Musical Gossip.

At the tenth and final Concert of the Philharmonic Society, next Monday, Madame Essipoff will play Chopin's Pianoforte Concerto in *c* minor.

MDLLE. TIENENS's Concert at the Royal Albert Hall will take place this afternoon (Saturday).

THE dates of the musical festivals this autumn are: for Birmingham, on the 29th, 30th, 31st of August, and the 1st of September; for Hereford (the Three Choirs), the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of September; and, for Bristol, the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th of October. Amateurs who propose to be present at the National Festival of Germany (Bühnenfestspielhaus zu Bayreuth) should take note that the 'Rheingold' will be first given on Sunday, the 13th of August; 'Walküre' on the 14th, 'Siegfried' on the 15th, and 'Götterdämmerung' on the 15th; the Prologue and the three operas will be repeated in the order just specified, on the 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of August; and the third and final series of the Trilogy will be on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th of the same month. The performance of each work will begin at four o'clock in the afternoon, the second act at 6 p.m., and the third act at 8 p.m., one hour being allowed between each act to enable the hearers to recruit their energies at the 'Restauration,' which is attached to the theatre. A Correspondent asks for the quickest way to get to Bayreuth, and this will be by Brussels, Cologne, Mayence, Darmstadt, Würzburg, Bamberg, Neuenmarkt, and Bayreuth (sixteen to seventeen hours by rail from Cologne); but the Vienna express train, which stops at Würzburg, will enable the visitors to break the journey at the last-mentioned town, leaving which at 9:55 A.M., Bayreuth will be reached at 2:45 P.M.

THE Royal Italian Opera will close next Saturday (the 15th inst.); our summary of the season will appear in the *Athenæum* of that date.

THE Welsh Choral Union completed their sixth season on the 6th inst. by a fourth concert in the Royal Academy of Music Concert Hall, in Tenterden Street, under the direction of Mr. John Thomas. On Wednesday afternoon, there was a Students' Orchestral Concert of the Royal Academy of Music, with Mr. Walter Macfarren as conductor, in St. James's Hall. The first movement of a symphony in *D* minor, 'Alkestis,' by Miss O. Prescott; a Pianoforte Caprice, composed and played by Mr. J. Ridgway; an overture, in *c*, by

H. W. Little, and an Intermezzo, in *c* minor, by Miss Jackson, were new works by the pupils.

M. LÉON ESCUDIER will not devote the entire season of the Théâtre Italien at the Salle Ventadour, to commence in October next, to the works of Signor Verdi, of which he is the publisher in Paris, but his prospectus will include for the future the ordinary *répertoire*. He has engaged Mdlle. Borghi-Mario (daughter of the *prima donna* who sang formerly at Her Majesty's Theatre), Mdlle. Singer, Mdlle. Albani, soprani; Mdlle. Parsi, contralto; Signori Masini and Aramburo, tenori; Signor Pandolfini, baritone; Signor Nanetti, bass; and Signor Caracciolo, buffo-basso.

UNTIL the French National Assembly has voted the subsidies for the Opéra National Lyrique and the Opéra Comique (Salle Favart), it is not of much use to mention the new works, the production of which will depend on the state of the exchequer. M. Carvalho will not undertake the direction of the last-mentioned theatre unless the Government will secure him, besides a subvention, the plant of the establishment, which is valued at 12,000*l.*, and heretofore has been paid for by the lessee. M. Vizenini has added to his list of artists Madame Marie Sass, who, since her secession from the Grand Opera-house, has been singing in Italy. She is to appear in the French version of 'Lucrezia Borgia,' by Donizetti, on the 20th of October, and for her Gluck's 'Armide' and M. Gounod's 'Reine de Sabre' will be given: besides she will take the leading part in 'Sigurd,' the new opera by M. Ernest Reyer. M. Vizenini is still searching for a Virginia in M. Victor Massé's 'Paul et Virginie,' originally intended for Madame Adeline Patti and M. Capoul. The manager of the Lyrique, also, has accepted 'Le Timbre d'Argent,' by M. Camille Saint-Saëns, libretto by M. Jules Barbier, and 'Le Bravo,' by M. Salvayre, book by M. Emile Blavet. How many of these promises will be realized must depend on the ways and means granted by the Legislature.

WEBER's 'Der Freischütz' is the last revival at the Grand National Opera-house, with Mesdames Baux and Daram, MM. Sylva, Gailhard, Caron, Gaspard, and Hayet in the chief characters; the *mise en scène* is superb, especially the incantation scene. Berlioz's recitatives, which he wrote when the first French version was produced, are again used.

#### DRAMA

##### Dramatic Gossip.

A NEW drama, in three acts, by Mr. H. J. Byron, entitled 'The Bull by the Horns,' is promised at the Gaiety.

THE 'Serf,' a drama of Russian life, to which we referred in our notice of 'Les Danicheff,' has been revived at the Olympic, the scene of its first production in 1865. It presents a conventional picture of Russian life, and has one or two dramatic situations and some wholly preposterous effects. Of the cast with which it was first performed, Mr. Neville, who plays the Serf, alone remains. For Miss Kate Terry, who enacted the heroine, Miss Carlotta Addison is substituted; and Mr. Vincent, Mr. Coghlan, and Mr. Horace Wigan are respectively replaced by Mr. Haywell, Mr. G. Neville, and Mr. Palmer.

ON Wednesday Miss Cavendish, to whose remarkable interpretation of Miss Gwilt the success of one of the gloomiest of dramas is mainly attributable, took her benefit, appearing in the character of Mercy Merrick in the 'New Magdalen.' This grim and impressive performance was followed by the comedy scenes from 'The Hunchback,' in which Miss Cavendish played Helen.

'THE MARBLE HEART,' an English adaptation of 'Les Filles de Marbre' of MM. Théodore Barrière and Lambert Thiboust, has been revived at the Charing Cross Theatre. This piece, first produced in 1854 at the Adelphi, obtains in its new home a representation that, under the conditions, may be called creditable. Its exponents are,

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almost without exception, strangers to London. They act with some intelligence, and with a fair amount of *ensemble*. The worst fault is the ludicrous pronunciation of the French phrases occasionally put into their mouths. Before the drama comes a comic opera of M. Offenbach, called '66.' This title it takes from the number of a lottery-ticket which a young peasant supposes himself to have obtained. After the imagined possession of wealth has led him into every form of extravagance, he discovers that he has turned the ticket the wrong side up, and that its number is 99. The piece has hitherto been strange to London. Its acquisition is scarcely a matter upon which greatly to felicitate ourselves.

'LOUIS XI,' by M. Casimir Delavigne, has been produced at the Porte Saint-Martin with complete success. M. Taillade gives an admirably distinct physiognomy to Louis XI., and other parts are adequately interpreted. To M. Casimir Delavigne, the Comédie owes whatever success it encountered in its prolonged struggle on behalf of the classicists against the romanticists of whose worship the Porte Saint-Martin was the temple. In presence of the subsequent seizure by the Comédie of the works of M. Hugo and Alexandre Dumas père, the frequent production of the works of Casimir Delavigne by the Porte Saint-Martin looks like a game of reprisals. It is, in fact, the "counter-check quarrelsome."

'CHATEAUFORT,' a three-act comedy of Madame la Comtesse de Mirabeau, and 'Castillon,' a one-act play of M. Paul Ferrier, are in rehearsal at the Gymnase-Dramatique.

#### MISCELLANEA

*Grammatical.*—The following little grammatical criticism is, perhaps, worth a line. In the latest work of one of the most masterly of modern prose-writers, I find the following sentence:—"L. was awaiting G.'s arrival, doing little more than wondering how the campaign would begin." *Wondering* should be *wonder*. The writer puts *wondering* after *than*, simply because *doing* precedes it. He surely would not say (on similar principles), "He did little more than *wondered*." *Than* introduces an elliptical clause, and the word *doing* that precedes the *than* requires that the ellipse should be filled up with some part of the same verb,—in fact, by the words *he did*, which involve the use of the infinitive *wonder*. The origin of the use of *than* in comparisons is interesting, and little understood. Its original meaning was *when*. In its older form it has this sense commonly in Anglo-Saxon. "John is taller than Tom [is tall]" means really and originally, "When Tom is tall (that is, when Tom's tallness is being regarded, or taken as the standard of comparison), John is taller." In Scotch *be* (*i.e.* *by*) is used to convey the same idea. "Hey's taller be onie o' thaim" means, "He is taller by the side of (or compared with) any of them." The elliptical sentence previously referred to is an abbreviation of one which means, "L. was . . . doing little else when [he did] wonder how the campaign would begin," *i.e.* "when he wondered how the campaign would begin, L. was doing little else." Similarly, "I have no other home than this" springs out of a sentence that means "When I have this, I have no other home."

C. P. MASON.

In the Lists of Thothmes III. supplied to us, and published in last week's number, the following *errata* obscure the relation of the Egyptian names to their Arabic equivalents:—

No.	read	for
31	Lautza	Lanfa
32	Luwelzeh	Luwelreh.
33	En Hahor	En Hahor.
34	Belt Jenn	Belt Jenn.
80	Gögar	Oenar.
91	'Attir	'Attia.
109	Bireh	Birch.
114	Kel'ban	Kel'ban.
	Sibia	Siba.

The native name of the Roebuck should be written *Yahmur*, not *Yakmur*, being the exact equivalent of the Hebrew word *Yamur* (Jahmur), translated "Fallow-deer" in the A-V.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—W. B.—G. S. B.—W. E. K.—received.

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